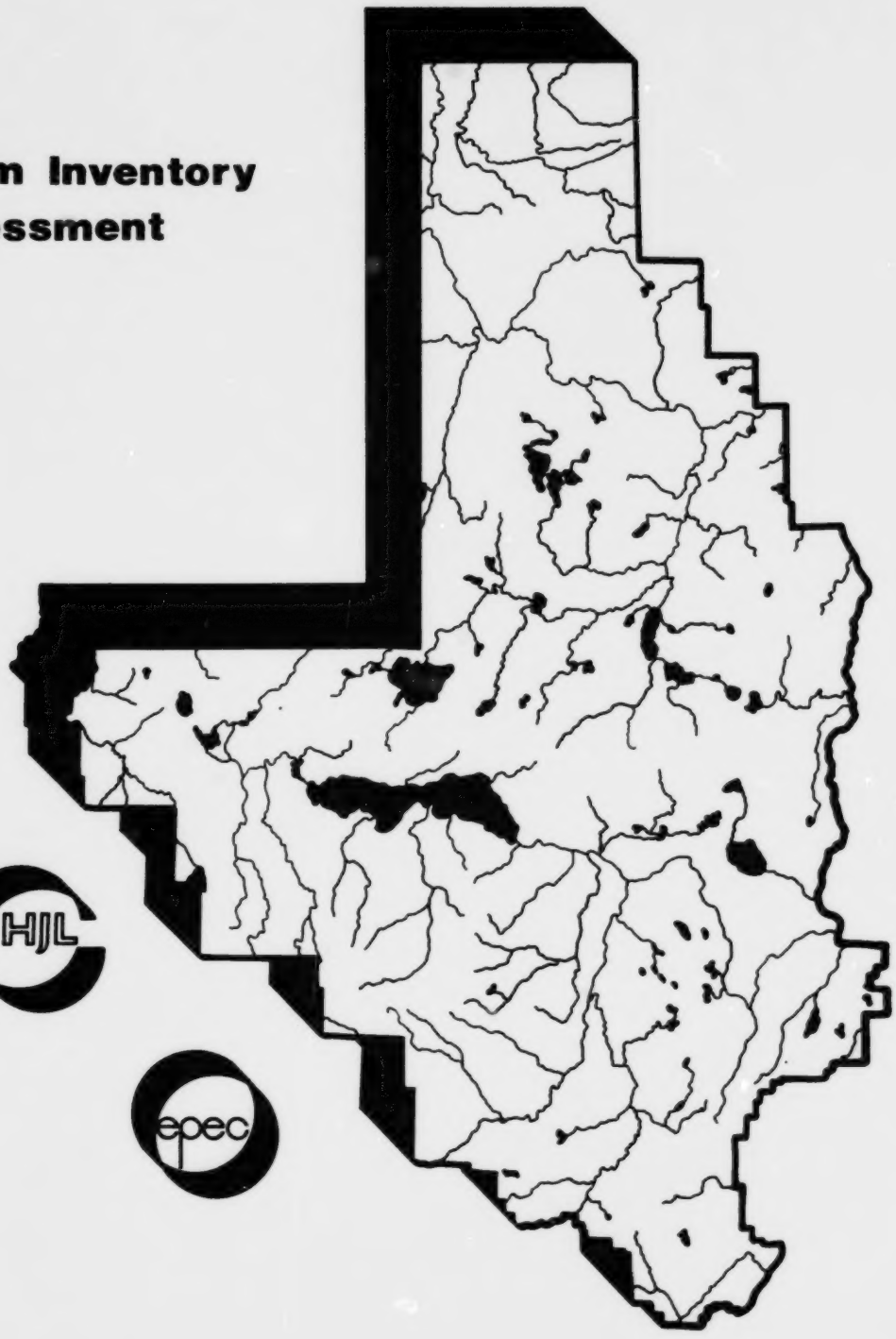
Tourism Destination Area Study

Tourism Inventory & Assessment



HJL

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March, 1983

LAND of the MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT

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Travel Alberta
CANADA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The enclosed consultant's report provides an inventory and assessment of the tourism resources of the Land of the Midnight Twilight, Tourist Zone 14 of Alberta. Potential tourism development opportunities are identified.

It should be noted that the report does not represent government policy. Rather it is the initial step in the destination area planning process. As the second step, Alberta Tourism and Small Business is seeking input from the general public, the private sector, and other government agencies with an interest in the area. Over the next few months open houses and meetings will be arranged to obtain your input and to discuss the report.

If you have any comments relative to the report, please forward them to:

Planning Unit
Development Branch
Alberta Tourism and Small Business
12th Floor, Capitol Square
10065 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 0H4

Further opportunities to discuss your feelings about this report and the tourism potential in the area will be available at the public drop-in sessions. Dates and details of these meetings will be advertised in local papers.

Additional copies of this report are available by contacting the above address, or by telephoning 427-4340.

Sincerely,

D. A. Hayes
Assistant Deputy Minister
Tourism Division

Zone 14 Land of the Midnight Twilight

FINAL REPORT

TOURISM DESTINATION AREA STUDY
— TOURISM INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT —

Prepared For:

TRAVEL ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS

MARCH 1983

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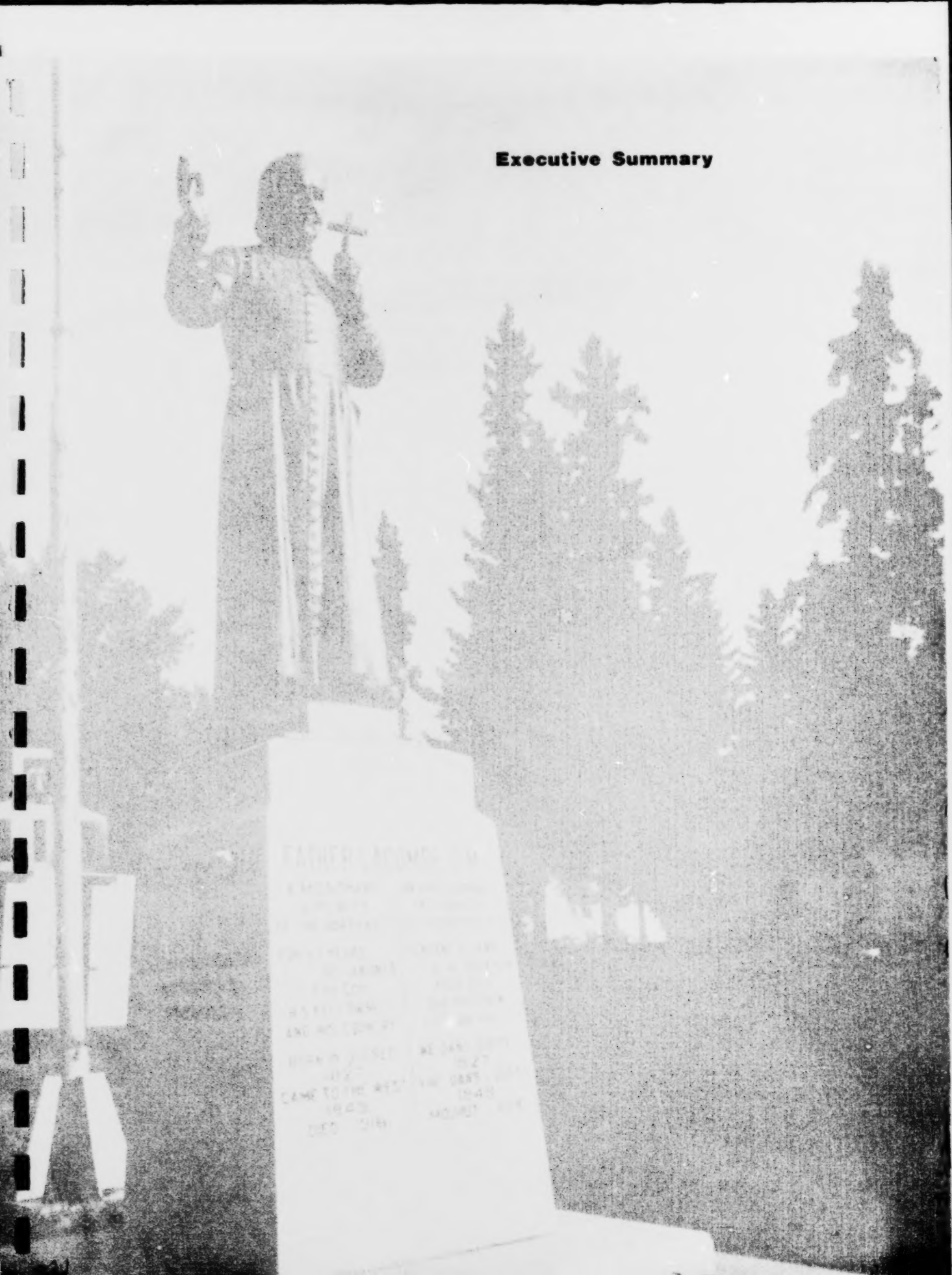
Executive Summary



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Midnight Twilight Tourism Destination Area Study is the first phase of the Tourism Destination Area Planning Process which is designed to co-ordinate and facilitate the development of the tourism opportunities of the Land of the Midnight Twilight Tourism Zone (Zone 14).

The objectives of this first phase of the project are to inventory and assess the physical and man-made features of Zone 14, to determine the opportunities and constraints to development, and to indicate the major development potentials which may warrant more detailed evaluation.

Zone 14 describes an area in North Central Alberta bounded roughly by the City of St. Albert to the south, the Athabasca River to the east, Wood Buffalo National Park to the north, and Highway 37, Girouxville and Swan Hills to the west.

A. SUBREGIONS IN ZONE 14

An overview of the natural features of Zone 14 resulted in the creation of four subregions for the purpose of this inventory analysis. These four subregions differ from each other in physiography, vegetation, land use, ownership, and access, providing a different set of opportunities for development.

B. ZONE 14 RESOURCES

The resources of Zone 14 were inventoried and evaluated in four categories:

- Biophysical Resources,
- Historical Resources,
- Community Resources,
- Community Tourism Resources.

The major resources of Zone 14 are as follows:

1. Biophysical Resources

- The climate of Zone 14 provides many tourism opportunities because of the ample summer sunlight and twilight in the northern portion of the Zone;

- Two groupings of lakes within a few hours driving time of Edmonton demonstrate high potential for cottages, lodges, campgrounds, and recreation activities. These lakes are the Lawrence-Steele Lakes area and the Rock Island-Fawcett Lakes area, and within both groups a significant unutilized potential is evident;

- Lesser Slave Lake and environs has good potential for the development and improvement of a complex of lake-related resources -- beach facilities, cottages, lodges, trails, scenic drives and boating activities;

- The Peerless Lakes area in the Northern Lakes Subregion demonstrates high potential for fishing, hunting and lodging activities;

- The upland resources of the Swan Hills area have high potential for activities such as hunting, skiing, snowmobile trails, camping, and off-road vehicle use;

- The Athabasca River is the major river recreation resource in Zone 14. The Wabasca River has potential for wilderness tripping.

2. Historical Resources

- The fur trade period in the Zone led to the development of a number of forts and trading posts on Lesser Slave Lake, and the Athabasca River (Fort Assiniboine);

- The Town of Athabasca has a history which makes it a prime area for tourism development on the basis of an historic transportation theme;

- River transportation, particularly by steam paddlewheeler, is an important historic resource which can be developed in some areas;

- Historic trails in the Zone are of importance for tourism. The Athabasca Landing Trail is a major historic resource which could be further developed;

- Numerous churches of historical and architectural significance are located in the Zone;

- Many archaeological sites exist in the Zone, but none offer tourism development potential.

3. Community Resources

- The eighty-nine communities of Zone 14 provide a wide variety of community size, community function, tourism related infrastructure, and orientation towards tourism development;

- Only thirteen of the communities in Zone 14 have populations in excess of 1,000 people;

- Community centres within High Development Opportunity areas include the Town of Athabasca, the Town of Swan Hills, the Town of Slave Lake, and the staging centre of the City of St. Albert;

- Many other communities in the Zone offer events and attractions which can be enhanced for tourism development.

4. Community Tourism Resources

- The current tourism use of Zone 14 is primarily by visitors travelling by road;

- Campgrounds are major tourism facilities and to some extent, a tourist attraction in Zone 14;

- Expanded campgrounds, new campground development, and the establishment of minimum campground standards are a priority for tourism development;

- Bus, rail, and air tours of Zone 14 do not exist at present;

- River outfitters, hunting and fishing guides, and informal tours of industrial and agricultural operations exist in the region. The expansion of certain of these operations is possible.

C. DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ZONE 14

The highest potential development opportunities which could be considered have been identified by subregion within the Midnight Twilight Zone. Broad costing (macro-costs) of these developments are provided in the tables of Chapter VIII. These costs indicate orders of magnitude only and are not to be used for purposes other than those indicated in the study.

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1. The Slave Lake Subregion

- Development of the boating potential of Lesser Slave Lake by improving or conducting the following activities:
  - Marina and boat launch at the Lesser Slave River,
  - Retail boating services and repair, rental and parts sales in Slave Lake,
  - Accommodation development -- lakeshore development of cottages, campgrounds and lodges,
  - Enhancement of the Town of Slave Lake for tourism;
- Development of the beach resources of Lesser Slave Lake:
  - New beach development,
  - Beach maintenance and expansion,
  - Designated family beaches with swimming areas, slides, diving platforms, picnic areas, parking and restrooms,
  - Beach concessions;
- Develop major fishing events and sports shops with tackle sales;
- Develop scenic drives with view windows on the Lake along the east and north shores;
- Develop upland trails connected to beach areas; potential walking, cross-country skiing, archery, and equestrian trails;
- Enhance and expand provincial, municipal and private campgrounds;
- Develop historical/cultural resources of the area;
- Develop local downhill and cross-country skiing potential with a lodge, cross-country trails and parking facilities.

2. The Swan Hills Subregion

The tourism potential of the Swan Hills Subregion remains unrealized. There is high potential to develop recreation activities which are more difficult to supply in other areas of the province:

- Develop snowmobile and off-road vehicle destination area in Swan Hills:
  - Snowmobile lodge, racetrack, and trail development at Krause Lake,
  - Off-road vehicle trail development by use of old cut lines,
  - Off-road competitive track development, motocross track development,
  - Facilitate use of longer trails with development of shelters,
  - Retail sales, service and rentals shop in Swan Hills;
- Develop the downhill ski resource in the area:
  - Expansion of ski acreage,
  - Development of a lodge,
  - Develop adequate parking,
  - Develop cross-country trails,
  - Market the development regionally,
  - Retail sales in Swan Hills;
- Develop hunting and fishing resources of the area:
  - Relocate municipal campground,
  - Sports shop in Swan Hills;
- Upgrade Highway 33 to paved status between Swan Hills and Kinuso. Pave Highway 32 to Whitecourt.

3. The Edmonton Plains Subregion

. Develop Lawrence-Steele Lakes area:

- Cottage development,
- Lodges,
- Campground development,
- Boating, boat launches, docks,
- Upland trails -- hiking and skiing;

. Develop Rock Island-Fawcett Lakes area:

- Hunting and fishing lodges,
- Campground development,
- Road construction from Calling Lake to Fawcett Lake;

. Develop Rourke Creek area:

- Campgrounds and group camps,
- Snowmobile and ATV trails,
- River access camping;

. Support Athabasca Landing Trail development;

. Town of Athabasca:

- Historic theme development,
- Paddlewheeler restaurant,
- Main street upgrading,
- River front park,
- Northern Transportation Museum.

4. The Northern Lakes Subregion

. Develop a hunting and fishing lodge on Peerless Lake:

- Boat and float plane dock,
- Boat, ATV, snowmobile rental,
- Guide and outfitters office,
- Hunting and fishing supplies,
- Restaurant.

The Midnight Twilight Zone has a natural and community resource base which could be developed for tourism. The major constraint to such development at the present time is access, a lack of facilities and attractions, and the distance of much of the area from major population centres. The focus of tourism development should be towards the regional tourism market based in the Edmonton Metropolitan area.

The efforts of Government, the private sector, and the Travel Industry Association of Alberta (TIAALTA) should be oriented towards the improvement of the quality of facilities, signing and access, in addition to the developments recommended within the high potential areas.

Introduction and Background

I

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Midnight Twilight Tourism Destination Area Study represents the first phase in the analysis, assessment, and development of the tourist potential of the Travel Industry Association of Alberta Zone 14, the Land of the Midnight Twilight.

The study is made possible through the funding and management of Travel Alberta, Department of Tourism and Small Business under the Tourism Destination Area Planning Process. The Land of the Midnight Twilight is the sixth area within which Travel Alberta has undertaken the preparation of an inventory and assessment. The inventory phase of the process leads to a number of general recommendations. Phase II of the process involves the determination of specific development objectives, while Phase III is the specific feasibility and program development stage. Finally, the implementation phase occurs. Figure 1 illustrates the Tourism Destination Area Planning Process. The purpose of the inventory and assessment stage is to evaluate the opportunities and constraints relating to the orderly and systematic development of the tourism industry in Zone 14.

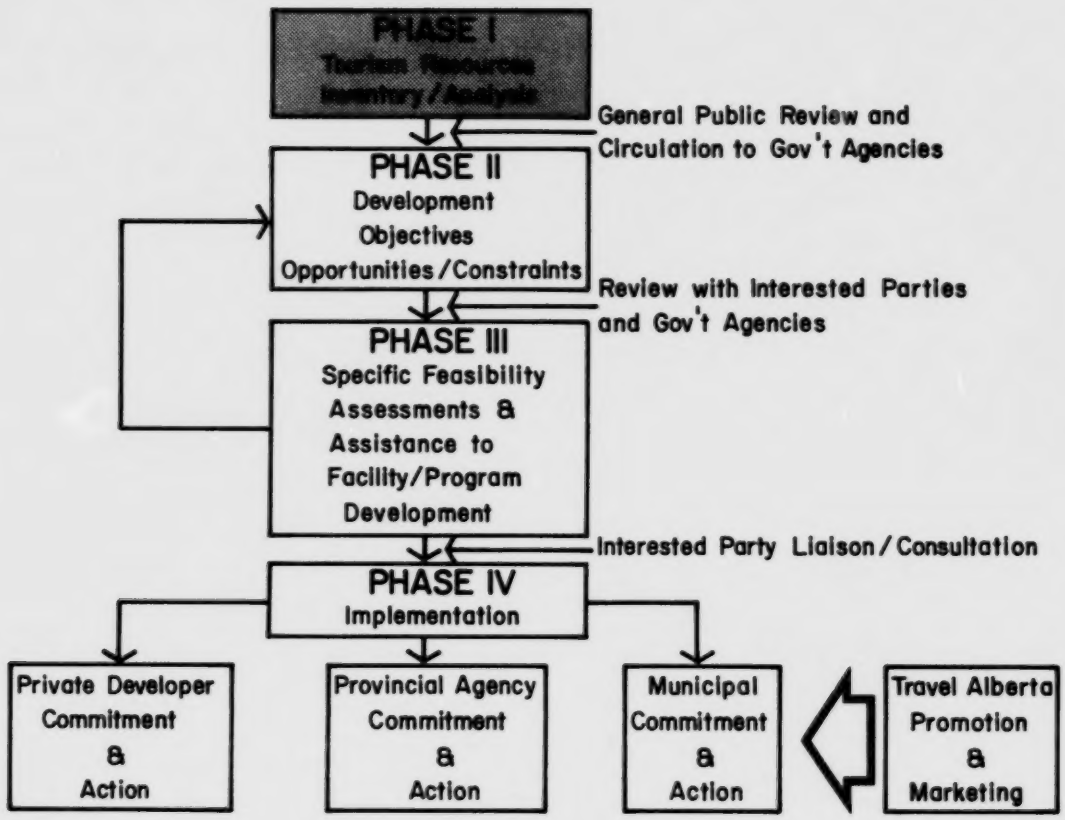
1.1 STUDY OBJECTIVES

The study objectives are as follows:

- To prepare an inventory of the natural landscape features and the existing facilities, events, attractions, and services in Zone 14 as they pertain to tourism development;

TRAVEL ALBERTA

Tourism Destination Area Planning Process


PHASE I
Tourism Resources Inventory / Analysis
General Public Review and Circulation to Gov't Agencies
PHASE II
Development Objectives Opportunities / Constraints
Review with Interested Parties and Gov't Agencies
PHASE III
Specific Feasibility Assessments & Assistance to Facility / Program Development
Interested Party Liaison / Consultation
PHASE IV
Implementation
Private Developer Commitment & Action
Provincial Agency Commitment & Action
Municipal Commitment & Action
Travel Alberta Promotion & Marketing

SOURCE : Travel Alberta : Planning Unit

Figure I - 1

- To provide the background information necessary for the preparation of a regional tourism destination area plan;

- To determine the potential for the development of new attractions, activities, facilities, and services for the tourist in Zone 14;

- To determine the opportunities and constraints to development and the broad economic feasibility of the various proposals;

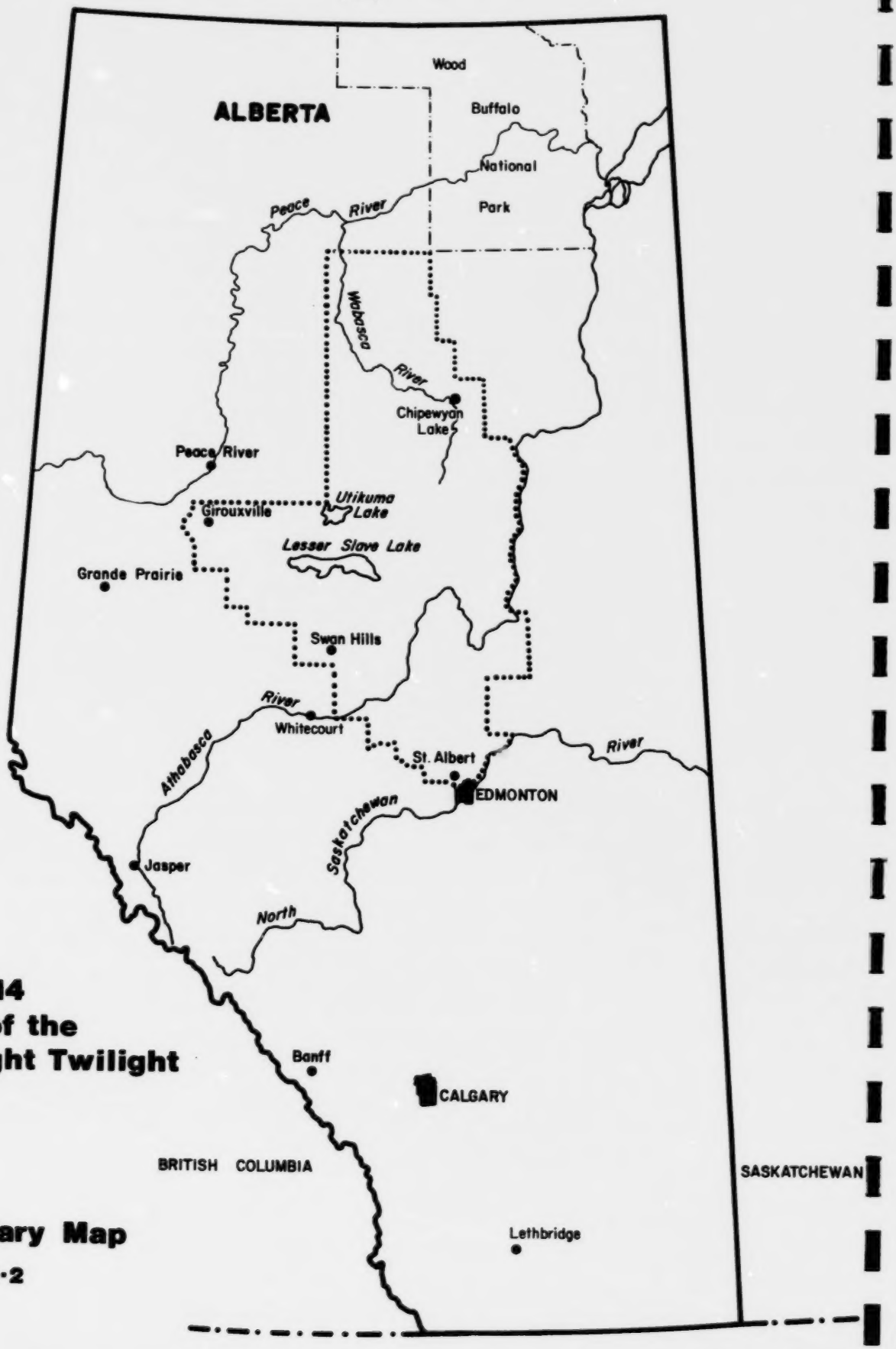
- To determine the optimum location for accommodation and service areas for the tourism area;

- To determine the demand for tourism and the impact of tourism in Zone 14.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Zone 14 is located in north central Alberta and is bounded generally by the City of St. Albert to the south, and the Athabasca River and Chipewyan Lake to the east. The northern portion of the region is parallel with the south boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park. The western edge of the region is defined approximately by Highway 67 south as far as Utikuma Lake, and by the area surrounding Girouxville to the west. The boundary then angles south through Swan Hills and to St. Albert (Figure I-2).

The Midnight Twilight Tourist Zone, the third largest tourist zone in the province of Alberta, encompasses an area in excess of 32,000 square miles (84,176 square kilometres). It is a vast area of diverse natural, historical and cultural characteristics.



Zone 14
Land of the
Midnight Twilight

Boundary Map

Figure I-2

The region was occupied initially by nomadic tribes of aboriginal peoples, followed by tribal settlements and the division of the region into hunting areas. In the early 19th Century, exploration and fur trade throughout the region first brought white explorers into contact with the native peoples. Trading posts and forts were constructed at critical points along the trade routes. Missionary development followed, creating the first permanent settlements in which white settlers resided.

Northern development brought settlers into the region along the Athabasca Landing Trail to the now historic Town of Athabasca, and from there to the Lesser Slave Lake Area. It created the nostalgic era of the paddlewheeler on the Athabasca River and Lesser Slave Lake. By 1920, the railway had displaced river transportation and enhanced the economic development potential of the region.

With the continued growth of Alberta, the renewable and non-renewable resources of Zone 14 were increasingly explored and developed. The prime agricultural areas north of St. Albert and west of Lesser Slave Lake were cleared of forest cover and planted with crops. Resource development of the Swan Hills area began, and the exploration and development of oil and gas resources moved steadily northward.

Community growth and expansion accompanied the growth of industry. The agricultural service centres of Barrhead, Gibbons, Morinville, Legal, Bon Accord, Westlock and Boyle prospered as service centres in the south, while High Prairie, McLennan, Falher, and Girouxville developed west of Lesser Slave Lake.

The communities of Swan Hills, Slave Lake, and Red Earth experienced growth as service centres for forestry and oil and gas exploration and development, or as jumping off areas to points north.

While some communities grew with the development of new industry, many stable older communities continued to serve as local service centres for the renewable resource economies. Joussard, Canyon Creek and Lesser Slave Lake, and the native communities of Calling Lake, Wabasca, Desmarais, Peerless Lake, Trout Lake, and Chipewyan Lake have continued their role as service centres for commercial fishing, trapping, and hunting pursuits.

Throughout this growth and development process, the natural beauty of the Midnight Twilight Zone did not go unnoticed by local, regional, and provincial tourists. Cottages were developed in the Athabasca area, and camping activity north of Lesser Slave Lake became a popular semi-wilderness experience. The use of the area by hunters and sport fishermen increased over time, and the wildlife resource of the area continues to be a major attraction.

In response to increased demands for tourism in the area, a number of private services and facilities have developed. Provincial Parks and campgrounds have been constructed in prime locations to serve tourist traffic.

Despite the tourist development which has occurred to date, the Midnight Twilight Tourist Zone remains a vast region of high quality natural resources which has realized only a small portion of its potential for recreation and tourism development. A portion of the full potential of Zone 14 may remain untapped for decades to come.

In the following chapters of this Development Opportunities report, a biophysical inventory and analysis is presented, as well as an inventory of community and tourist resources. This is followed by a review of the tourist market in Zone 14 and finally a series of macro-economic assessments of the High Potential Development Opportunities are shown.

Development Opportunities

II

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

This chapter of the report has been developed on the basis of the land use capability work and the historical overview performed as part of Chapters III and IV, the community resource work and tourism resource inventory presented in Chapters V and VI of this report, and the market overview work presented in Chapter VII. The opportunities presented herein represent what the consultants believe to be high potential developments for each of the four subregions within Travel Zone 14, that is:

- Slave Lake Subregion;
- Edmonton Plains Subregion;
- Swan Hills Subregion;
- Northern Lakes Subregion.

In addition to high potential development opportunities, developments with medium potential, which are particularly appropriate for each subregion, have also been examined. As a conclusion to this chapter, a section has been prepared which outlines a number of opportunities which pertain to the entire Zone. These Zone-wide recommendations can be considered "Study Observations" and are included because they were felt to be of significance to ongoing tourism development in the Zone. They were not considered to be of relevance to any one subregion, but rather to the Zone as a whole.

When reading the development opportunities recommendations, it must be kept in mind that this report represents Phase I in the Tourism Destination Area Planning Process and as such, the market and economic projections on which the recommendations are based are only preliminary in nature. That

is to say, the macro level feasibility has been examined, and prior to implementation of the developments, the next two phases of the planning process must be undertaken.

1.0 SLAVE LAKE SUBREGION

1.1 PRIMARY POTENTIAL -- LESSER SLAVE LAKE AND AREA

Lesser Slave Lake is the largest recreational lake in the Zone and has high capability for lakeshore recreation development. The area has excellent access along the south shore and to the western portions of the lake. Existing recreation development is moderate with significant utilization of provincial parks, municipal campgrounds and private beach resorts. The infrastructural development in the Town of Slave Lake is excellent in support of tourism development, including:

- Sewer and water systems;
- Police and fire protection;
- Retail sector;
- Recreation resources including tennis, golf course, downhill skiing, swimming pool, arena and curling facilities;
- Uplands which support hunting, hiking and cross-country ski development;
- Excellent transportation access including first class highway, airport, and bus service;
- Hospital, ambulance, medical and dental facilities and services.

This base of natural resources and infrastructural resources, combined with the proximity to a large urban market, provides the basis for the following opportunities.

1.1.1 Summer

The following describe specific development opportunities related to the Lesser Slave Lake area and are most relevant to summer, water based tourism potential.

1.1.1.1 Boating

Significant opportunities exist for the development of boating on Lesser Slave Lake. Activities related to boating would include:

- Power boating -- water skiing, parachute/kite skiing;
- Sailing;
- Canoeing (rivers entering Lesser Slave Lake);
- Windsurfing.

To take advantage of the market potential, the following specific developments should be considered.

1. Marina/Boat Launch

   Such a development is essential to the success of the Lesser Slave Lake area as a boating and recreational lake. In addition to the actual development of a marina and boat launch, adequate parking facilities should be provided. The suggested location for such a marina would be just south of Slave Lake Provincial Park, as indicated on the map (Figure II-1) describing the development opportunities for the Slave Lake Subregion.

2. Retail Boating Services

In conjunction with the foregoing, retail development in the form of boat rentals, parts and service, including gas and oil is required, and could represent a significant economic opportunity for an entrepreneur once volume reaches appropriate levels.

3. Accommodation Development

The Town of Slave Lake has excellent fixed roof accommodation facilities for the "immediate future", however, lakeshore accommodation, other than provincial park camping is virtually non-existent, and could be highly utilized in summer months. Expansion of the existing campgrounds, and development of new accommodation facilities, such as rental cottages along the lakeshore are definite possibilities.

4. Community Enhancement

Communities surrounding Lesser Slave Lake could take advantage of summer tourism by upgrading their facilities and services to serve the summer tourist. Theme development could enhance each community around the lake. For example, Slave Lake would be the visitor service centre. The smaller surrounding communities could provide thematic tourism alternatives. Joussard might provide a theme of Native Arts and Culture; Kinuso might cater to trophy fishermen; and Canyon Creek and Widewater could cater thematically to sailing oriented boaters.

1.1.1.2 Swimming

Lesser Slave Lake provides a good to excellent water resource with several kilometres of first class beachfront. It is suggested that the beach development be undertaken with a family tourism orientation by Provincial, Municipal or private developers. This could include the following:

1. Beach Maintenance/Expansion

Regular beach maintenance to remove weeds and other debris should be undertaken, with the potential for opening new stretches of beach kept in mind.

2. Designated Family Beach Areas

A series of designated beach areas could be developed which incorporate the following:

- Marked and roped swimming areas;
- Slides inside roped areas;
- Diving platform;
- Lifeguard;
- Picnic tables/cooking areas;
- Adequate parking;
- Restroom facilities.

3. Walking Trails

Various beach and parking areas should be linked with walking trails, some of which could be developed as nature/interpretive trails to augment the beach development.

4. Beach Concessions

Potential exists for beach concession areas providing food services, as well as various equipment rentals including paddle boats, wind surfboards, body surfboards, sailboats, beach chairs, air mattress rentals and so forth.

1.1.1.3 Fishing

The potential for fishing on Lesser Slave Lake and its related tributaries is excellent, and is closely related to the marina development in terms of its service centre base. The lake itself boasts northern pike up to 25 pounds (11 kg), walleye to 12 pounds (5 kg), perch to 2 pounds (1 kg), whitefish to 6 pounds (3kg), and some grayling to 2 pounds (1 kg). Tributaries, including Slave River and Marten River, boast pike, walleye, goldeye, and grayling.

Potential exists for marina related services such as boat and tackle sales and rentals, as well as oil, gas and parts. The possibility for local residents to provide guiding services is also high.

1.1.1.4 Cottage Development

One of the important elements of successful summer, water based tourism is the development of a permanent tourist population base to support the retail and infrastructural development necessary to service all the summer tourists. Infrastructure development might include: extension of paved roads; sewer, water and power service extension; police and fire service extension; and other municipal and recreational services developed to meet increased population demands. One very effective way to provide this population base is to encourage the development of cottages. Lesser Slave Lake has high potential for such development along its north and south shore, including the point north of Kinuso. (Please refer to Slave Lake Subregion map -- Figure II-1.)

Careful subdivision planning and enabling legislation are two key elements to avoid unsightly or strip kinds of developments. Additionally, other opportunities which could emanate from cottage development, but be of benefit to the overall tourism product or environment, include:

1. Scenic Drives

   Scenic drives linking cottage areas with parks areas and public beach developments would provide a scenic interlocking of all development and would help to focus cottagers into retail and commercial areas.

2. Trail Development

   Nature and interpretive trails could be developed in the cottage areas to provide year-round potential for use as hiking and cross-country ski trails.

1.1.1.5 Campgrounds

Potential exists to enhance the campground developments around Lesser Slave Lake.

1. Provincial Parks Expansion

   Lesser Slave Lake and Hilliard's Bay Provincial Parks are currently experiencing high levels of summer use, indicating potential for expansion. Consideration ought to be given to developing these parks with the overall tourism development plan in mind. That is, linkages to possible marina development, cottage development and commercial/retail development should be considered.

2. Municipal Campground Improvements

Upgrading and expansion of municipal campgrounds in the area to include full servicing as well as to entertain the possibility of "permanent" campsites which could be leased year-round should be considered. Campgrounds should ensure adequate parking and linkages to marina and retail sectors.

3. Private Campground Development

There exists significant opportunity for private development as well, particularly on lands owned by the Sawridge Indian Band. Campgrounds in the private sector in other areas have become primarily "theme" oriented, such as Yogi Bear, Flintstones or Kampgrounds of America (KOA). There is much to recommend such development, particularly their reservations system and the co-operative advertising programs they use. Private campgrounds are normally higher priced than public campgrounds, and in order to survive economically, must provide better, or more interesting services and amenities than those found in public campgrounds. This includes reservation systems, or long-term leases on campsites and comprehensive marketing efforts. Occupancy at such theme campgrounds normally runs higher than occupancy at non-theme private campgrounds.

1.1.1.6 Upland Development

The potential for upland development in the Lesser Slave Lake area is excellent, and should be considered in the Primary Development Opportunities section in the context of providing secondary tourism activities to augment the water/camping/cottaging potential. Such upland development could include:

1. Trail Development

Interpretive trails and wildlife viewing trails are all possible within a 50 kilometre radius of Lesser Slave Lake. Such trails could become cross-country ski trails during the winter months.

2. Archery Trails -- Archery Course

Archery trails would include the establishment of a nature hiking trail in conjunction with an archery range much the same as a golf course set up, where there are nine or eighteen different ranges providing the archery buff with a series of situations at which he gets to fire a number of arrows. The archery buff would keep score of his performance throughout the course and would have a score card to document his performance.

3. Equestrian Trails/Trail Riding

Upland development could also include a series of equestrian trails for the trail riding enthusiast. Opportunities would exist then to provide rental animals and guiding services for such trail rides.

1.1.1.7 Historical/Cultural/Industrial Tour Development

A number of opportunities exist to incorporate possible and actual historical and cultural attractions into the Lesser Slave Lake area. This point is closely related to the theme development of surrounding communities, but is pointed out again for emphasis. Points of interest would/could include the following:

- Grouard Mission;
- Sawridge Indian Band -- Native Arts, Culture, History;
- Commercial fishing -- netting/drying/processing.

- Driftpile Rodeo grounds;
- Churches/cemetaries;
- Mitsue Industrial Park tours.

1.1.2 Winter

1.1.2.1 Ice Fishing

Using Slave Lake as a base, ice fishing on Lesser Slave Lake has some limited appeal. Potential exists for ice fishing shack rentals, or tackle supply provision and/or rentals.

1.1.2.2 Snowmobile Trails

Using the summer hiking/interpretive trails, a series of snowmobile trails could be developed, which could be linked to fixed roof accommodations developed in support of summer tourism.

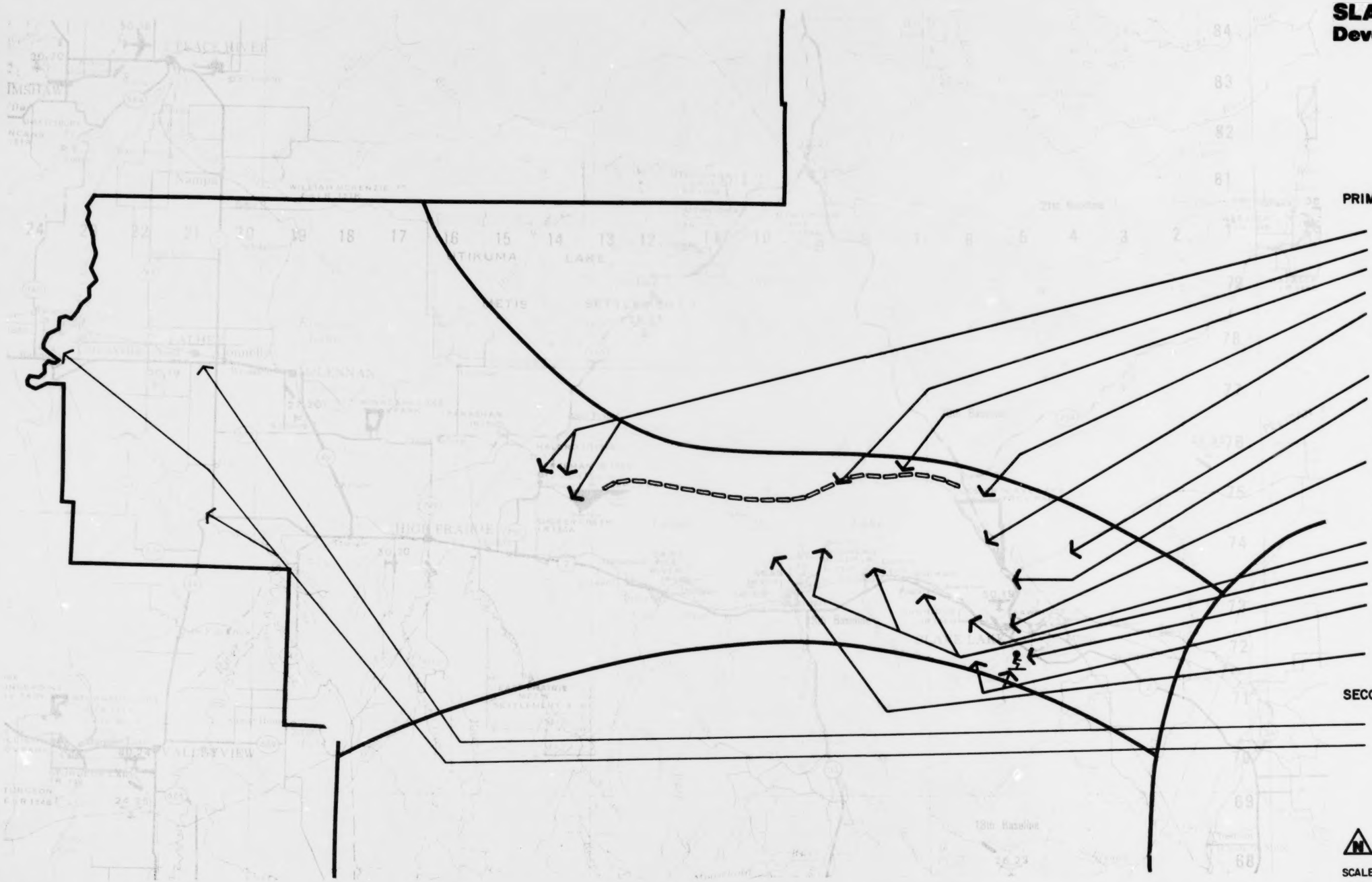
1.1.2.3 Downhill Skiing

Utilizing the facilities of the Slave Lake downhill ski facility, a local and regional market can be developed for downhill skiing. A ski facility could be tied into the infrastructural resources of the Town of Slave Lake. The key opportunities represented by downhill skiing would include a lodge facility at the hill combined with equipment rentals. Such efforts could be undertaken by the private sector or a club, as outlined in the macro costing chapter of this report.

1.1.2.4 Cross-Country Skiing

Cross-country ski trails could be developed in connection with the downhill skiing facility. In addition, as mentioned for the snowmobile trails, a certain number of the interpretive/hiking trails developed for summer

SLAVE LAKE SUBREGION
Development Opportunities



PRIMARY POTENTIAL

- HISTORIC CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS
- LODGES, COTTAGES
- SCENIC DRIVE
- CAMPGROUND EXPANSION
- BEACH EXPANSION
- CONCESSION
- RENTAL - WINDSURFERS, SMALL SAILBOATS AND SKIBOATS
- TRAIL DEVELOPMENT - EQUESTRIAN
- MARINA/BOAT LAUNCH
- BOAT, CAR PARKING
- WINTER STORAGE
- GAS, FUEL, ACCESSORIES
- ACCOMMODATION
- RETAIL SERVICES
- BOAT SALES AND SERVICE
- PARTS, REPAIR
- FISHING SUPPLIES
- HISTORIC CULTURAL ATTRACTION
- LODGES, COTTAGES
- DOWNHILL SKIING
- TRAIL DEVELOPMENT
- CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
- EQUESTRIAN, ARCHERY TRAIL
- CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS
- BEACH MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADING

SECONDARY POTENTIAL

- Directional Signing - Cultural Attraction
- Campground Upgrading

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Figure II-1

tourism could be utilized for cross-country ski trails. By utilizing the facilities of the downhill ski resort, adequate parking would be ensured for all cross-country skiers. Development of cross-country ski trails would provide additional users to sustain the lodge operation developed at the ski hill.

1.1.3 Scenic Drives

The third principal area of potential in the Lesser Slave Lake Subregion would be the development of a series of scenic drives connecting various points of interest around Lesser Slave Lake. The major requirements to develop such scenic drives would be the provision of adequate signing, the development of view windows along the scenic drives, the provision of parking pull-offs at each of these scenic views so that motorists might pull off the highway to enjoy the scenery at various specific locations. The provision of these parking pull-offs should also include the provision of roadside picnic tables and garbage faciilities. Part of the scenic drive development should include access to Kinuso Beach, which is one of the finest beaches along the shoreline of Lesser Slave Lake. Potential scenic routes have been shown on the Slave Lake Development Opportunities map.

1.2 SECONDARY POTENTIAL -- SLAVE LAKE SUBREGION

In the context of secondary tourism development potential for the entire Slave Lake Subregion, a number of recommendations are made for increasing the marketability of the Subregion. These recommendations in many cases are site specific, however, they should be viewed as being general in context in that most campsites, campgrounds, and cultural/historical attractions can be upgraded to increase their attractiveness to potential users.

1.2.1 Cultural/Historical Attractions

The three principal recommendations regarding cultural/historical attractions would be:

- Upgrading of exterior facades;
- Directional signing;
- Improvement in hours of operation.

A specific example of where these three elements could upgrade the marketability significantly would be at the Girouxville Museum. Another example would be the apiary at Falher. Also at Falher, the College Notre Dame and the church would become much more marketable with some facade improvements, with increased directional signing, and with better publication of the hours of operation. In the context of hours of operation, there are many promotional brochure literature pieces currently circulating and available to the travelling tourist. Within these brochures, hours of operation are often stated for a number of cultural/historical attractions. It is critical that the attractions in the subregion adhere to the hours of operation noted in these brochure materials.

1.2.2 Campgrounds

There are a number of campgrounds within the Slave Lake Subregion which could benefit from specific upgrading efforts. Upgrading efforts could include the addition of sewer and/or water, or upgrading for electrical hook-ups for trailers and so forth (although cost considerations might prohibit such developments). Specific examples would be:

- Watino -- general upgrading will enhance overall marketability of this campground;

- Little Smoky River -- general upgrading of the campsites and provision of river access would enhance the marketability of this campsite. In addition, providing cross-country ski trails at the ski hill located at Little Smoky River would enhance this ski hill's marketability. Similarly, provision of view trails for summer hiking use would also be of benefit for winter skiing.

- Jean Cote -- it is in need of some upgraded support services, including linkages with other campsites and/or tourist attractions and significantly improved signing.

The next section of this chapter deals with the potential opportunities in the Swan Hills Subregion of Zone 14.

2.0 SWAN HILLS SUBREGION

The relatively unique upland features of the Swan Hills Subregion, combined with certain important ownership features, provides an opportunity for regional tourism development which is not as feasible elsewhere.

The Swan Hills upland area is an ecoregion which has significantly higher precipitation than other areas in Zone 14, much of which is snowfall. Panoramic views of the upland exist from many high points, but particularly from Wallace Mountain, House Mountain, and Deer Mountain. The extensive coniferous vegetation in the higher areas provides year-round cover, and the wildlife potential is high.

The community of Swan Hills provides most of the tourism services which are necessary, and most of the basic infrastructure is in place. Access to Edmonton is along a paved, high quality primary highway, but a good portion of the access to Kinuso (21 km) is presently gravel, while access to Whitecourt is all gravel.

The existence of forestry and oil developments in the area provides recreation opportunities through the provision of access -- both in the form of oil roads and cut lines. The fact that ownership is primarily in the hands of the Crown is an advantage and an opportunity, and the entire area has few, if any, fences.

2.1 PRIMARY POTENTIAL

2.1.1 Winter Recreation

The Swan Hills area is a prime area for the development of winter recreation activities, particularly for snowmobiling, downhill skiing and cross-country skiing.

2.1.1.1 Snowmobile Recreation

Snowmobiling is a burgeoning recreation activity in the Province of Alberta, and the demand for large areas within which snowmobiles are permitted to operate is growing. Few, if any, areas near Edmonton have been set aside for such uses. In patent land areas, it is difficult to acquire permission for use of large blocks of land, and complaints about noise and illegal use of private lands have been problems in the past.

The sport has grown and with its growth, clubs and associations have been formed to further the sport. These clubs, in addition to providing a social function for the membership, stress safety, respect for private lands, and fostering the image of snowmobiling as a family sport.

In recognition of the growing demand for lands in which snowmobiling recreation can occur, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources is in the process of developing a trail system to connect Fox Creek, Whitecourt, and Swan Hills. A primitive lodge is to be constructed at Krause Lake, southwest of the Town of Swan Hills.

The potential at Krause Lake for a day lodge and staging area for snowmobile enthusiasts is high because it would connect the longer trails to Fox Creek and Whitecourt with numerous potential day use trails. From Krause Lake, trails could be developed north to Edith Lake, the Wallace Mountain area, and to the Jerry's Creek Campground and the House Mountain area.

Trails to the south could connect the Freeman Lake Campground with the Freeman River Campground. The frozen Freeman River could then be used for a trail east as far as the camping area at Trapper Lea's Cabin. The picnic shelters and other facilities of these campgrounds could be put to use through the winter months in this manner.

The extensive or longer distance trail opportunities in the area are almost limitless, and for the most part existing cut lines would be used for trails. The all weather oil company roads provide excellent variety in the choice of distances travelled by enthusiasts.

Intensive development of snowmobile facilities is also of great potential. A snowmobile race track such as the track at Beausejour, Manitoba could be developed in the Krause Lake area as the centre for major events such as professional races and club weekends. A straight track could also be developed in the area. With these developments, the area could become a significant regional winter attraction and a provincial attraction for major events.

At Krause Lake, an indoor lodge facility could be operated by the local snowmobile club and could include the following:

- A cafeteria and lounge;
- Indoor washrooms;
- A minor repair shop;
- An equipment sales shop;
- Vehicle parking designated for trailer storage.

The motels and other services in Swan Hills would serve the overnight visitor, while the Freeman Lake Campground could remain open in the winter to serve the motorhome and camper population. Alternatively, the Town of Swan Hills could relocate its present campground to leased land near the community and develop a full service campground there, which would be available for four season use.

2.1.1.2 Downhill Skiing

The area of Wallace Mountain has the highest potential for downhill skiing development in the Swan Hills Subregion. Wallace Mountain has a potential 158m (500 foot) vertical drop in four directions with an average slope in the range of 15 percent. The panoramic view of the Swan Hills from this area is an additional attraction. The major physical constraint to its development is limited access.

The Swan Hills Ski Club operates a ski hill approximately 10 km north of the Town on Highway 33. The hill has a 171m (560 foot) vertical, a 1584m (5,000 foot) t-bar, night lighting, a small change house and pit toilets. The snowload in the area is greater than at all Edmonton region ski hills, except Silver Summit near Edson.

Development of the tourism opportunity represented by the ski hill would include the following additions:

- Improved parking facilities for more vehicles;
- Better highway signing;
- Day lodge:
  - lounge and cafeteria
  - rental facilities (downhill and cross-country)
  - repair shop
  - indoor plumbing
  - day care service;

- Additional runs catering to a range of abilities;
- Cross-country ski trails developed from the lodge.

Overnight accommodation and services would be provided in the Town of Swan Hills, at the outset, with expansion of accommodation within the Town viewed as future potential.

The major constraints to development of the downhill ski potential of the area are the existing quality of the product, and marketing. The upgrading of the product as indicated above would create a regional downhill facility from what is now a local ski hill. Marketing the product would involve an extensive advertising campaign through the Edmonton media, and sport shops, along with special promotion packages.

2.1.1.3 Cross-Country Skiing

Cross-country ski trail development should occur in conjunction with downhill ski facility development in order to minimize facility investment. The Wallace Mountain area, due to its scenic potential, is an ideal location for the development of a cross-country trail system.

Trails should be developed in areas affording the greatest view potential, and windows should be cut in strategic locations to maximize this potential. No major investment in facilities is warranted until the market is established.

2.1.1.4 Miscellaneous Winter Activities

The potential for snowshoeing, wildlife viewing, and photography during the winter season is relatively high in the Swan Hills area. These activities could occur in conjunction with the primary activities discussed above.

Ice fishing is a growing winter recreation activity in Alberta. The lack of lake resources in the Swan Hills Subregion limits the extent of the activity in the area.

2.1.2 Hunting Potential -- Fall

The Swan Hills Subregion is a major fall hunting area at the present time. The upland areas are excellent moose and deer habitat, and many hunters use the motels and campgrounds of the area during hunting season.

The fall use by hunters increases the potential for development of a municipal campsite near the Town of Swan Hills. The existing campsite is of inadequate size, is poorly located, and is aesthetically inferior. It cannot be upgraded significantly in its present location, and there are a number of superior locations in close proximity to the Town.

Guiding and outfitting services in the Swan Hills area could be better advertised and could use the Town as a base of operation.

2.1.3 Summer And Fall Shoulder

Much of the summer recreation potential is based on the same topographic and land use features that make Swan Hills an excellent winter recreation area. These features provide opportunities for summer and fall shoulder season recreation as follows.

2.1.3.1 ATV, ATC, Motorcycle, Four Wheel Drive Development

Few areas have been designated in northern Alberta for all terrain vehicle (ATV), all terrain cycle (ATC), and four wheel drive (FWD) use. The comparative advantage of the Swan Hills area lies with the single ownership (i.e. Crown Lands), lack of fencing, and existing oil road and cut line development.

Extensive recreation areas on longer trails could be designated, and many of the winter snowmobile trails could be designated for summer all terrain vehicle use. Thus, the winter and summer uses would be complementary and would improve the viability of the infrastructure developed to serve these uses.

The potential for a major motocross race course and annual professional and amateur events exists and could include:

- Competitive four wheel drive course;
- Motocross course;
- Dirt track course;
- Motorcycle trials course.

The major constraint to such development is environmental in nature. However, the area is presently used by these vehicles to some extent, and the potential for greater use within designated areas exists. Detailed planning and designation of appropriate areas for such development will be necessary to ensure the allocation of enough suitable land, and the necessary access to the Swan Hills service centre.

2.1.3.2 Fishing

The fishing potential of the area could be better realized by designating access routes to major stream fishing resources. This would particularly apply to streams with arctic grayling fishing potential. Services for fishermen would be located in the Town of Swan Hills.

2.1.3.3 Camping

The demand for additional campgrounds would increase with the advent of enhanced recreation opportunities. Such campground development should be considered in association with existing campgrounds. Secondary development such as nature trails for recreational hiking, wildlife and scenery viewing should be considered. Development of winter campgrounds should occur with increasing winter demand.

Primitive campgrounds and winter shelters should be developed strategically to service the snowmobile, hunter and ATV recreationists using designated trails.

2.1.4 The Town Of Swan Hills

The Town of Swan Hills will be the service centre for all of the activities for which the area has potential. Certain facility and design changes would increase the ability of the community to serve the demand.

A sport shop or shops would provide goods and services to the skier, the hunter, and the fisherman. Such a facility could also retail motorcycles, ATVs, ATCs, and snowmobiles and provide repair services for these vehicles. A second retail facility might provide downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoe equipment, repair, or rentals.

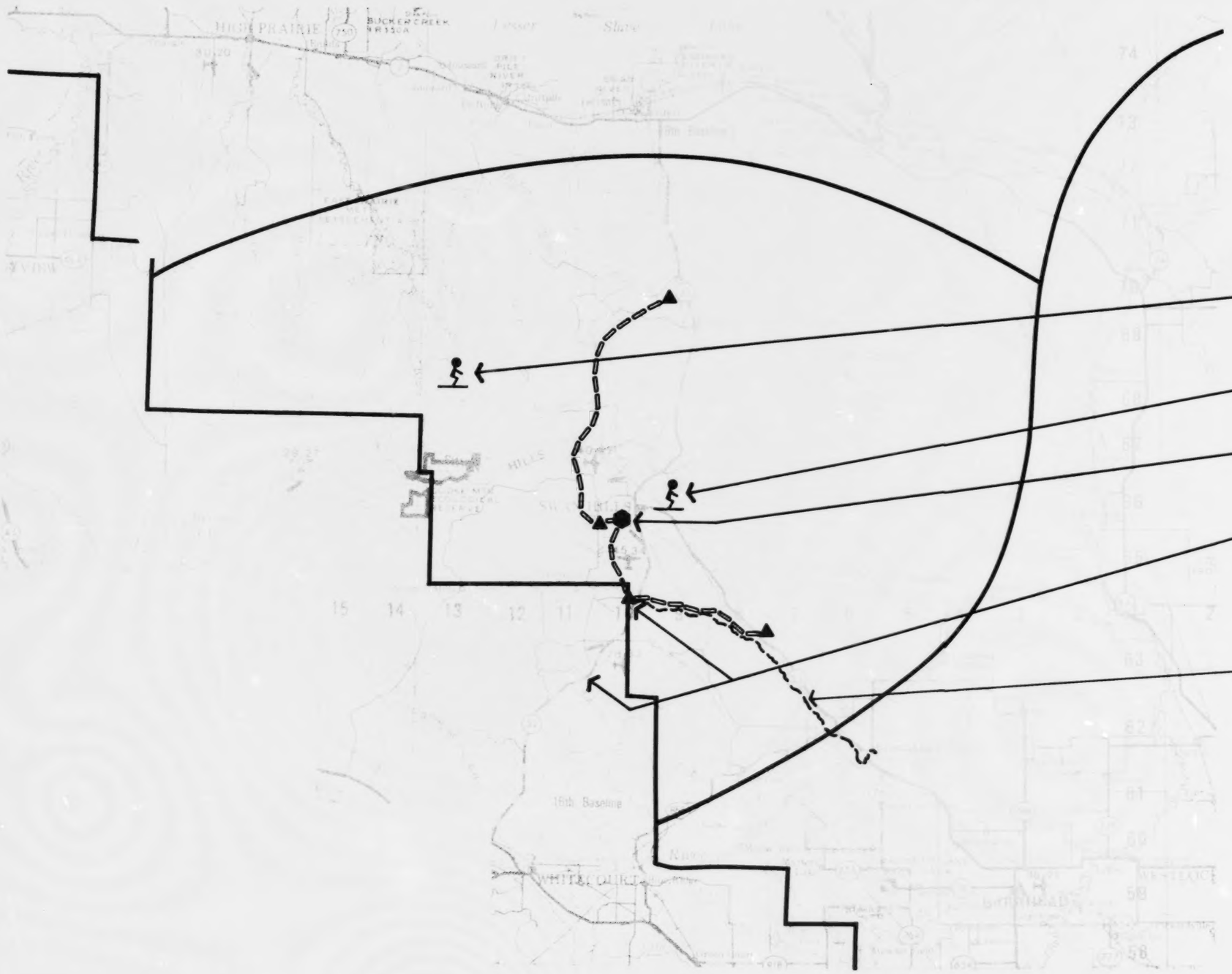
The aesthetic appeal of the Town of Swan Hills could be enhanced significantly. The removal and relocation of the municipal campsite has been noted. Planted buffer strips along Highway 33 would visually buffer the industrial area to the south and the industrial-commercial frontage to the north. The facade of the retail section in the community could be reconstructed with a wilderness theme to reflect the tourism use of the area.

2.1.5 Highway 33

It is essential to the future tourism development of the Swan Hills area that Highway 33 be paved as soon as possible. Alberta Transportation plans to pave the remaining section between Swan Hills and Kinuso within a five year period. Highway 33 east of the Town of Swan Hills is a paved artery in excellent condition at present.

The remaining priority should be the paving of Highway 32 between Whitecourt and Swan Hills. This will provide access from Edmonton and Whitecourt along primary highway systems to Swan Hills.

SWAN HILLS SUBREGION
Development Opportunities



PRIMARY POTENTIAL

- DOWNHILL SKIING
- DOWNHILL RUNS
- LODGE / FACILITIES
- CROSS-COUNTRY TRAILS
- ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

- DOWNHILL SKIING
- LODGE
- RUNS
- CROSS-COUNTRY TRAILS

- SNOWMOBILE AND A.T.V. DEVELOPMENT
- LODGE
- RACETRACK
- TRAILS

- HIGHWAY 33 AND HIGHWAY 32 PAVING
- DEVELOP VIEWPOINTS

SECONDARY POTENTIAL

- Campground Improvements - general
- Freeman River - spring canoeing

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Figure II-2

2.2 SECONDARY POTENTIAL

Areas of Secondary Potential in the Swan Hills Subregion will not generate large tourist volumes, but rather, will enhance the variety of potential experiences for the tourist.

2.2.1 Canoeing

The Freeman River has potential for canoe and kayak use. The volume of water on the river is sufficient only during the spring season, however, and the overall grade of the river is Class I (novice open Canadian canoe). Reach Reports prepared for the Freeman River from the Highway 32 bridge to Fort Assiniboine would be assets. The development of one intermediate take out point at Trapper Lea's Cabin should be considered.

2.2.2 Trail Rides

The Chalmers Trail represents some potential for historic trail ride development after it has been located in detail. Local outfitters could operate the trail ride between Fort Assiniboine and Swan Hills.

2.2.3 Trapper Lea's Cabin

The present development at Trapper Lea's Cabin on Highway 33 east of Swan Hills is of historic interest. The cabin could be upgraded to include a stove, furnishings, and windows. The potential problem of vandalism must be considered.

2.2.4 Viewpoints

Several locations along Highway 33 between Fort Assiniboine and Kinuso offer panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Viewpoints should be developed along the highway. Garbage facilities and washrooms, as well as interpretive signs referring to the geological history, climate and vegetation of the Swan Hills area could be developed at these viewpoints. Possible locations for such viewpoints include the following:

- Kilometre 22 south of Kinuso;
- Kilometre 27 south of Kinuso;
- Kilometre 54 south of Kinuso;
- Kilometre 61 south of Kinuso;
- Kilometre 9 east of Swan Hills.

2.2.5 Signing

Proper highway signing is essential to ensure the use of recreation areas. Within the Swan Hills Subregion, improvement of signing to the Freeman Lake Campground is a priority. Signing should also indicate the types of facilities or services available at each campsite. For example, potable water is not available at the Freeman River Campground, and appropriate signs on the highway should indicate this fact. Internationally accepted symbols should be used on signs.

The next section of this chapter deals with the opportunities in the Edmonton Plains Subregion of Zone 14.

3.0 THE EDMONTON PLAINS SUBREGION

The Edmonton Plains Subregion is a diverse area physiographically, culturally, and historically. Its physiography ranges from the flat, prime agricultural lands between Edmonton and Westlock to the rolling region of aspen poplar, white spruce and lake resources of the Rock Island and Fawcett Lakes area.

The Edmonton Plains Subregion contains the only city in Zone 14 (St. Albert) and the majority of communities with populations over 1,000 (Barrhead, Morinville, Westlock, Athabasca, Bon Accord, Gibbons, Legal). Many of the communities have historically existed primarily as agricultural service centres. In the past 10 years, however, several have become commuter communities to the Edmonton Metropolitan area.

The history of the Edmonton Plains Subregion has been developed more than elsewhere in Zone 14, and includes the historic Fort Assiniboine (fur trade), the Athabasca Landing Trail (fur trade and northern development), the historic churches (northern settlement), and the Athabasca River route (fur trade and northern development), noted in Chapter IV of this report.

The variety of natural, cultural, and historical resources in the Edmonton Plains Subregion offers potential for a wide variety of tourism and recreation activities for regional residents.

3.1 PRIMARY POTENTIAL

3.1.1 Recreation Lake Development

Two areas in the northern portion of the Edmonton Plains Subregion demonstrate high potential for the development of water based recreation activities. High potential exists in these areas for the development of cottage areas for regional residents.

3.1.1.1 Lawrence Lake -- Steele Lake Area

This area consists of the following major lakes and the surrounding upland areas:

- Lawrence Lake;
- Meyer Lake;
- Chain Lakes;
- Island Lake;
- Baptiste Lake;
- Francis Lake;
- Steele Lake;
- Long Island Lake.

Some of these lakes have experienced relatively extensive cottage development and are presently summer recreation destination areas for the regional population. Lake Management Plans have been completed for Island and Baptiste Lakes, and they specify the areas suitable for future cottage subdivision.

An opportunity exists in this area for substantially increased development of cottages and recreational use of lake resources without necessitating a large investment in infrastructure. Opportunities for group camps, lodges (low density) and associated commercial services are also evident.

Access to Meyer Lake, the Chain Lakes, and Lawrence Lake must be developed before this potential can be realized.

Opportunities for development that could be considered at these various sites are as follows:

Lawrence Lake:

- Access developed to west shore;
- Cottage development on west shore;
- Campground on southwest corner of lake;
- Boat launch and dock facility;
- Rental cabin development;
- Boat rental.

Meyer Lake:

- Access development;
- Boat launch;
- Cottage or rental cabins on southeast shore.

Chain Lakes:

- Access developed to west shoreline;
- Camping, day use, camp grounds.

Steele Lake:

- Cross Lake Provincial Park expansion as necessary;
- Future development of Francis Lake.

Island Lake:

- Island Lake Management Plan.

Baptiste Lake:

- Baptiste Lake Management Plan.

If development of this area is realized, potential will exist for a general store in the Lawrence Lake/Meyer Lake area on Highway 2. Such a facility could include gas and fuel sales, repairs, a restaurant, groceries, and limited hardware sales.

All higher order goods and services for this area would be provided by the Town of Athabasca.

3.1.1.2 Rock Island Lake -- Fawcett Lake Area

A second area of good recreational lake resources is located north of the community of Smith and includes the following lakes:

- Fawcett Lake;
- Paul Lake;
- Orloff Lake;
- Rock Island Lake;
- Calling Lake.

The area has shorelands with high recreation capability and surrounding vegetated upland areas capable of sustaining extensive recreation. Existing development includes Calling Lake Provincial Park, Fawcett Lake Resort, and a campground on west Fawcett Lake.

The area has high potential for development of resort facilities, tourist lodges, and water based recreation activities. All lakes are presently used by fishermen, although Rock Island and Orloff Lakes have poor access. Specific development opportunities that could be considered include:

- Access Improvement:
  - Develop road access from Calling Lake Provincial Park to Fawcett Lake Resort, along the south shore to the west Fawcett Lake campground;

- Develop road north of Lesser Slave River as a scenic and historic roadway. Cut viewing windows to the River, picnic areas for day use;
- Develop access road to Orloff and Rock Island Lakes. Design for potential future connection with Sandy Lake.

. Rock Island Lake:

- Potential for cabin resort development for hunters, fishermen, snowmobile and ATV users;
- Boat launches;
- South shore potential for cottage development;
- Develop campground (summer and winter);
- Group campground potential;

. Orloff Lake:

- Develop potential of east shoreline;
- Resort development -- cabins for hunting and fishing;
- Boat launch;
- Cottage or fishing camp development potential;
- Develop campground (summer and winter);

. Fawcett Lake:

- Potential for high quality resort development -- north shore;
- Cottage development on south shore between Fawcett Lake Resort and the west Fawcett campground;
- Expansion of west Fawcett campground;

- Paul Lake:
  - Access for fishing;
- Trail Development:
  - Develop trails for off highway vehicles in areas away from major lake developments.

If development of this area were realized, an opportunity for a commercial facility in the Orloff-Rock Island Lakes area would be created. This facility could provide gas, fuel, food, groceries, hardware, and potentially lumber, electrical and plumbing equipment on a small scale.

The opening of each new lake offers the opportunity for boat rental, snowmobile rental, bait shops and fishing equipment, and associated recreation goods and services.

The major constraint to development of the cottage potential of these two areas lies within the policies of the Draft Big Bend: Integrated Resource Plan. The policies of this plan recommend that no cottage subdivision or alienation of Crown land for commercial recreation development be permitted in these areas. The areas would be preserved for public development of recreation facilities.

It is possible that leasehold arrangements for cottage use, resort development and commercial facilities could facilitate the development of these areas. It is, however, a matter to be considered by the various government agencies involved in resource management planning in the area. Should the policies of Big Bend be maintained, it is recommended that some campgrounds or areas within campgrounds be set aside for three month leases for motor homes and trailers.

3.1.2 Upland Recreation Development

The Big Bend Plan recommends the development of facilities in the Rourke Creek Area for summer and winter recreation use. Facilities would consist of campgrounds, group camps, trail bike and snowmobile trails, and a boat launch along the Athabasca River, day use areas and the necessary attendant facilities could be provided.

This recommendation of the Big Bend Plan is strongly supported. A separate walk-in camping facility should be developed in the area for small groups travelling along the Athabasca River (see following pages) so as to maintain the semi-wilderness experience for those groups.

Additional upland trail development is recommended in the Big Bend Plan, and should be developed as demand in the area increases.

3.1.3 Historical And Cultural Development

The historical and cultural resources of the Edmonton Plains Subregion are a valuable asset which could be enhanced with further development.

3.1.3.1 The Athabasca Landing Trail

The existing development and upgrading of the Athabasca Landing Trail and its historic sites has been the prime motivation and work of the Trail North Foundation. This organization should be given the full support of provincial agencies, municipalities, and TIAALTA in their efforts to develop the full historic potential of the trail.

Trail North has developed plans for stopping points, cairns, historic sites, and primitive camping areas which are far more detailed than can be covered in this study. However, the potential public use of the trail may be enhanced by the organization of guided trail rides, museum tours, walking tours, and potentially, nature tours organized in conjunction with Athabasca University or the John Jantzen Nature Centre.

In Athabasca, a Northern Transportation Museum has been proposed by Trail North. This museum is strongly supported as a tourist attraction and should be accessible to auto traffic. It should be included in the literature for the Northern Woods and Water Route and the Destination North Tour Route (Section 5.1)

3.1.3.2 The Town Of Athabasca

The Town of Athabasca has been a major historical attraction as a jumping off point to the Northern Woods and Water Route for many years. The community should develop a theme related to Athabasca Landing in its buildings, facades, walkways, particularly along its waterfront area. Potential development and redevelopment in this community could include the following:

- River Frontage:

  - Redevelopment of the Athabasca River frontage;
  - Removal of railway and elevators (although extremely expensive);
  - Development of historic park along waterfront;
  - Re-creation of Athabasca River paddlewheeler -- to be used as a restaurant on shore or as a river restaurant;

EDMONTON PLAINS SUBREGION
Development Opportunities

PRIMARY POTENTIAL

- LODGES - HUNTING, FISHING
- BOAT LAUNCHES
- COTTAGES
- CAMPGROUNDS
- SNOWMOBILE, A.T.V. TRAILS
- PROVINCIAL PARK EXPANSION
- ROAD CONNECTIONS TO OPEN LAKES
- RESORT - NORTH SHORE
- COTTAGES - SOUTH SHORE
- ROAD CONNECTIONS TO OPEN LAKES
- CAMPGROUND - SOUTH SHORE
- COTTAGES AND COMMERCIAL SERVICE
- TOWN OF ATHABASCA
- THEME DEVELOPMENT
- RIVER DEVELOPMENT
- PADDLE WHEEL RESTAURANT
- ROURKE CREEK UPLAND RECREATION AREA
- CAMPING
- SNOWMOBILE AND A.T.V. TRAILS
- RIVER ACCESS AND CAMPING
- ATHABASCA LANDING TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

SECONDARY POTENTIAL

- River Tours - Athabasca River
- Scenic Tours
- Theme Tours

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Figure II-3

- Northern Transportation Museum:

  - Participation of the Northern Transportation Museum in community theme;
  - The history of Athabasca Landing pictorially represented;

- Athabasca Landing Theme:

  - Re-creation of the facade of Athabasca Landing in the downtown area;
  - Historic stores and suppliers operating as modern retail enterprises;

- Campground and Boat Launch:

  - Upgrade campground and boat launch with historic theme.

Detailed studies would naturally precede any of these recommendations for the Town of Athabasca. The cost of removing the rail yards is likely prohibitive, and an amended version of the more grandiose plan may be required.

3.2 SECONDARY POTENTIAL

3.2.1 Theme Tours

Within the southern portion of the Subregion theme tours organized as day trips from Edmonton and St. Albert could be implemented.

3.2.1.1 Church Tour

- Father Lacombe Church -- St. Albert;
- Bishop's Palace -- St. Albert;
- St. Jean Baptiste Church -- Morinville;
- Notre Dame Convent -- Morinville;
- St. Mary's Church -- Waugh;
- St. Benoit Church -- Pickardville;
- St. Peter's Church -- Lac la Nonne.

3.2.1.2 Museum Tour

- Father Lacombe Museum -- St. Albert;
- Kinoull Historical Museum -- Colinton;
- Centennial Museum -- Barrhead;
- Fort Assiniboine -- Fort Assiniboine.

3.2.1.3 Agricultural Tour

- Experimental farm plots;
- Working farms near Westlock;
- Buffalo Compound -- Clyde/Westlock;
- Farm vacation possibilities.

3.2.1.4 Wildlife

- Alberta Wildlife Park -- Legal.

3.2.1.5 Transportation

- Pioneer Railway Museum -- Namao
- Northern Transportation Museum -- Athabasca.

These tours could be developed as package bus tours or as self guided auto tours. Historic sites and museums would have to be open at the times specified, proper highway signing would be required, and arrangements would be required with the various private operators.

3.2.2 River Tours

The Athabasca River offers wilderness and semi-wilderness tour potential for an international market. While the size of the market is small, two operators offer package tours on the Athabasca at the present time. The increasing interest in wilderness activities and in canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and jet boating indicates good growth potential for this sport.

3.2.2.1 Athabasca River -- Fort Assiniboine to Athabasca

- This is a novice open Canadian canoe reach which could be developed for family tours of varied lengths. Minor improvements to the existing facilities are required.

3.2.2.2 Fort Assiniboine

- Riverside campground and boat launch;
- Information kiosk, providing maps and Reach Reports on Athabasca River, and instructions to sign-in with RCMP.

3.2.2.3 Rourke Creek

- Primitive campground;
- Boat launch;
- Information kiosk as above.

3.2.2.4 Athabasca

- Addition of Athabasca River kiosk;
- Warnings relative to the Athabasca -- Fort McMurray reach should be explicitly indicated -- Reach Reports provided, telephone and RCMP number provided.

3.2.2.5 Grand Rapids

- Cabin developed at portage above rapids;
- Explicit warnings of reach to follow.

3.2.2.6 Fort McMurray

- Information signs -- reminder to phone RCMP.

One further note on river tours is required. Since many travellers from Europe (particularly Germany) seek Canadian Wilderness adventures, such as the Athabasca trip, it is essential that the Alberta Government make the various embassies and consulates aware of the provincially generated information available for wilderness areas. Topographic maps alone are insufficient for wilderness river travel.

3.2.3 Major Events And Activities

Tourism can be facilitated in the Subregion through the support and marketing of major events and activities:

- The Namao Air Show;
- Alberta Wildlife Park;
- The Red Barn;
- The Barrhead Airport (parachute; ultralite aircraft);
- Rainmaker Rodeo -- St. Albert.

The following section of this chapter discusses the opportunities for the Northern Lakes Subregion of Zone 14.

4.0 THE NORTHERN LAKES SUBREGION

The vast Northern Lakes Subregion is presently an area of resource communities, resource exploration, and dispersed hunting, fishing and trapping activities. Access to the populated areas of the Subregion is by way of gravelled roadways, and generally the single access to each area precludes the possibility of a circular tour. The tourism potential of the Northern Lakes Subregion may not be realized for decades to come due to the distance of the area from major markets and the lack of adequate access for vehicular traffic. Certain actions can be taken in the prime areas, however, to realize some development of the highest potential tourism resources.

4.1 PRIMARY POTENTIAL

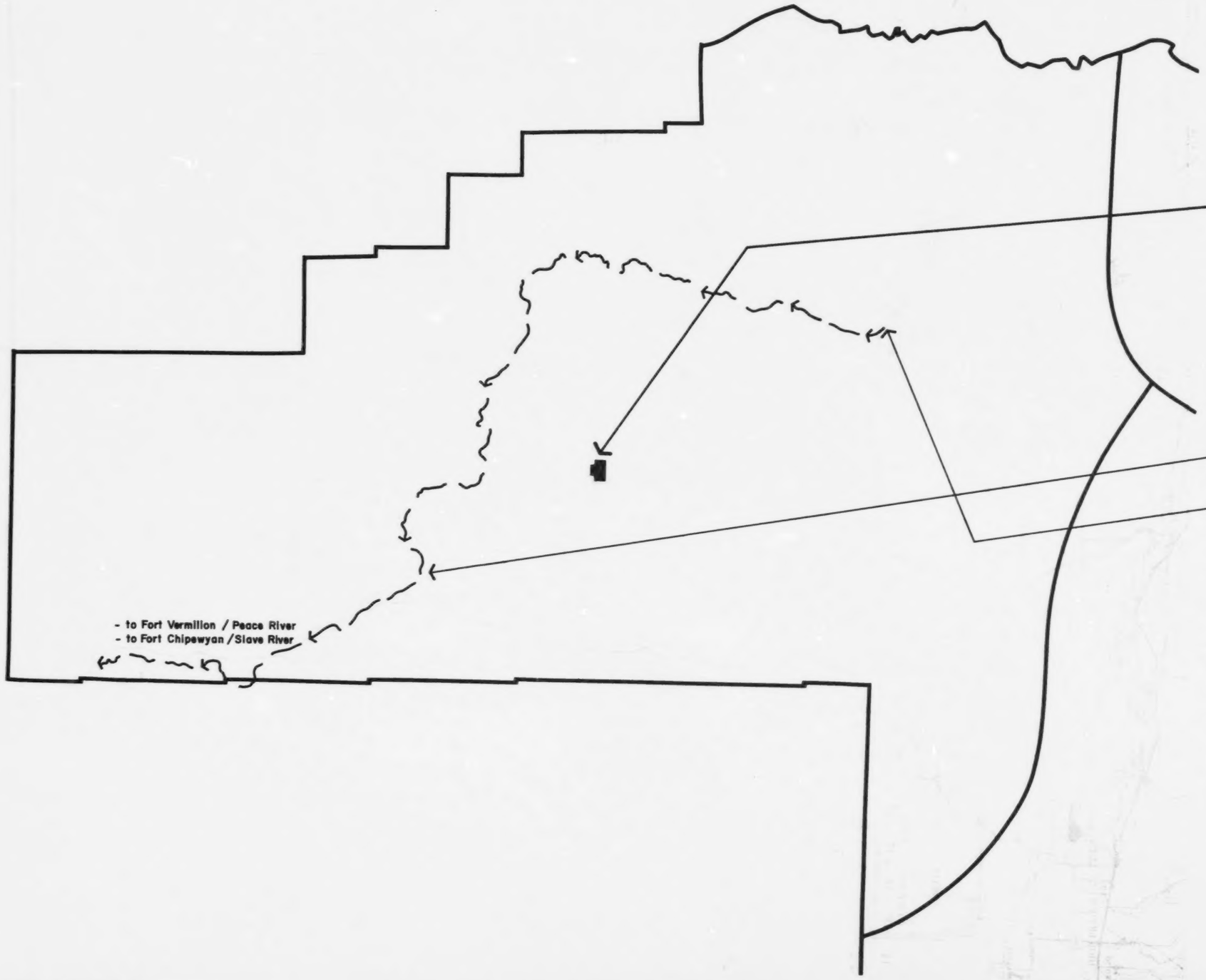
4.1.1 Peerless Lake

The Peerless Lake area demonstrates the highest shoreline capability for recreation in the Northern Lakes Subregion. In the area of Peerless Lake there are numerous good fishing lakes, and Peerless Lake itself has the only natural trout population in Zone 14. Hunting in the area is also good.

Potential exists on Peerless Lake for the development of lodge facilities for fishermen and hunters, accessible either by road or by air. This lodge could include the following facilities:

- Restaurant;
- Docking for boats and float planes;
- Boat rental;

NORTHERN LAKES SUBREGION
Development Opportunities



PRIMARY POTENTIAL

- FISHING AND HUNTING LODGE
- ACCOMMODATION
- OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES
- BOAT LAUNCH
- DOCKING - BOAT AND FLOAT PLANE
- RENTALS - BOAT, A.T.V., SNOWMOBILE, ICE FISHING EQUIPMENT

SECONDARY POTENTIAL

- Wilderness Adventure
- Canoe, Kayak, Jetboat
- Hunting, Fishing
- Guides and Outfitters

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Figure II-4

- ATV rentals;
- Guides and outfitters office;
- Snowmobile rentals;
- Vehicle repair;
- Gas and fuel;
- Hunting and fishing supplies;
- Ice fishing sheds and equipment rental.

Fly-in fishing arrangements could be made with firms in Lac La Biche or in Edmonton. This facility could either be operated by natives in the area or it could employ the native labour force as guides for the operation.

4.2 SECONDARY POTENTIAL

4.2.1 Outfitters And Guides

The native population of the Subregion could organize a guide and outfitters association which would better market their services in the area. Hunting and fishing access via the Wabasca River could be advertised regionally. The centre for such a service would be Peerless Lake or Wabasca.

4.2.2 Wilderness Adventures

The potential of the Wabasca River for lengthy wilderness canoe, kayak and jet boat trips could be better realized. Potentially a package tour could originate in Wabasca and terminate at Fort Vermilion on the Peace River. Wildlife viewing, scenery, and the history of northern Indian tribes, northern resource development and wilderness travel could be highlighted.

The final section of this chapter deals with Zone-wide opportunities.

5.0 ZONE 14 TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

Tourism opportunities which are not specific to any one subregion exist in Zone 14.

5.1 CIRCLE TOURS

Numerous circle tours have been identified by the Midnight Twilight Zone organization to market the tourism product within the Zone. The product should be continually refined and upgraded, and information disseminated through tourist information centres. A complete listing of existing circle tours appears in Appendix B.

There are three auto tour routes which require special consideration.

5.1.1 Northern Woods And Water Route

This auto tour route represents an alternative to the Trans Canada and Yellowhead Routes for travellers interested in the lakes and forests of the shield area which are so often forgotten by people travelling to the "prairie" provinces. Highway signs have been located along the route, cavalcades have been organized, and the attractions along the route have been documented.

Every effort should be made by the northern tourist zone organizations and by Travel Alberta to improve the experience of tourists along this route. The history of community development and of northern development generally should be documented and made available, roadside interpretive signs should be developed, and the Northern Woods and Water Association should be supported.

5.1.2 Destination North

The Destination North project which is presently underway will record the history, events, and attractions of all communities along a circle tour which begins in Edmonton and encompasses the four northern tourist zones.

A Destination North highway sign should be developed, information should be made available at tourist information centres throughout the zones, and a strategy for marketing and advertising the tour should be developed and implemented.

5.1.3 Grizzly Trail

The Grizzly Trail (Highway 33) runs from Gunn to Kinuso through Swan Hills and is a designated route in Alberta.

Information on the Trail should be made available at tourist information centres throughout the Zone. A strategy for marketing and advertising this route could be developed. An Exploration Guide could be developed for this route.

5.2 PARK AND CAMPGROUND STANDARDS

The parks and campgrounds of Zone 14 are not uniform in standards or facilities provided to tourists. The highest level of service is provided by the Provinical Parks, while certain municipal campgrounds provide a low level of service.

Travel Alberta and the Zone 14 Association should develop a set of minimum standards of facility development and maintenance and should help their constituent municipalities to achieve these uniform standards. The level of service in each campground should continue to be documented in the Zone visitor's guide, and this guide should be updated on a regular basis.

5.3 INFORMATION CENTRES

Zone 14 information centres should be developed at strategic locations along the highways in the Zone.

Information centres of standard design and quality should be developed, and the Midnight Twilight Zone logo and theme should be highlighted at the centres. They could be developed in conjunction with Alberta Transportation as highway rest stop areas with washrooms, interpretive displays, garbage facilities and picnic areas. Joint municipal funding of a portion of the costs of these centres is implied. The Zone 14 Association would act as the catalyst to negotiations between municipalities and would help prepare the interpretive material for each centre.

5.4 SIGNING

It is essential that all attractions in the Zone, whether private or public in nature, be appropriately introduced to the travelling public with proper highway signing.

The level of service at each campground should be recorded in international symbols below the campground name. This recommendation could be implemented throughout Alberta.

Attractions such as museums, historic sites, and churches could be named below the Midnight Twilight logo so that the connection with the Zone would be indicated. Travel Alberta and the Zone 14 Association should develop these signs in conjunction with Alberta Transportation.

5.5 VISITOR'S GUIDE

The land of the Midnight Twilight Visitor's Guide should be revised on a regular basis. The various tourism products included in the guide should be of high quality, well indicated on the highways, and should be open for tourists at the times indicated.

This completes the Tourism Development Opportunities section of this report. The balance of the chapters of this report provide the background from which these opportunities were developed. It should be emphasized that the opportunities presented in this chapter are only the first phase in the Tourism Destination Area Planning Process. Before any of the opportunities are implemented by either the public or private sector, development objectives should be defined and detailed feasibility assessments should be completed.

Biophysical Inventory and Analysis

III

BIOPHYSICAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The biophysical inventory and analysis of Zone 14 reviews and assesses the natural resources of the Midnight Twilight Zone from the perspective of their suitability for tourism and recreation development. Section 1.1 is a descriptive overview of the climate, the physiography, the soils, the river and lake resources and the vegetation of the Zone. Section 1.2 identifies four subregions which were created from the overview of the Zone in order to facilitate a more detailed analysis of the potential of the natural resource base to sustain tourism and recreation development. These subregions are The Edmonton Plains, The Swan Hills, The Slave Lake, and The Northern Lakes Subregions. Finally, Section 1.3 provides an assessment of the natural resource potential for tourism and recreation development in each of the four subregions.

1.0 BIOPHYSICAL OVERVIEW OF THE MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT ZONE

1.1 CLIMATE

1.1.1 Temperature

Geographical differences in temperature in Zone 14 vary principally with latitude and elevation of land. The mean July temperature varies from a high of 17°C in Edmonton and 15°C in the Slave Lake and Peerless Lake areas to 14°C in the Swan Hills area. The mean January temperature basically follows latitude and varies from -16°C in Edmonton to -18°C at Slave Lake and -20°C in the Peerless Lake area. Mean April temperatures vary from 3°C in Edmonton to 1°C in the northern portion of the Zone; mean October temperatures also vary only slightly from 4°C in Edmonton to 3°C in the northern portion.

By way of comparison with Zone 14, the mean daily July temperature in Red Deer is 15.5°C, while Calgary is 16.5°C and Lethbridge is 18.8°C. The January mean temperatures are -15.8°C, -10.9°C and -9.4°C respectively for these cities. The trend, with some locational variation, is towards warmer summer and winter temperatures in more southerly locations through the province.

A slight variation occurs in general summer water temperatures as one moves north through Zone 14, amounting to about a -3.6°C difference between lakes in the Edmonton vicinity and those in the northern portion. Other factors, of course, affect water temperature in lakes including lake depth (bathymetric characteristics) and water movement. The freeze-thaw regime of water bodies also varies with latitude in the Zone. The first day of ice-free lakes in the Edmonton vicinity is about May 1st; at Lesser Slave Lake the first day is about May 20 and in the Wabasca and Peerless Lake areas it is between May 20 and June 1. The first day of permanent ice formation on lakes in the Wabasca area is about November 1; at Lesser Slave Lake it is about November 10, and in the Edmonton vicinity it is about November 20.

With regard to freeze-thaw regimes on rivers in the Zone, the Athabasca River (at Athabasca) completely freezes about November 20, with the first ice deterioration occurring about April 22nd. The North Saskatchewan River (at Edmonton) completely freezes about November 16th, with the first deterioriation of ice about April 14. The North Saskatchewan freezes earlier than the Athabasca due to its shallower depth, slower flow, and its relative proximity to the mountains.

1.1.2 Precipitation/Sunshine

Rainfall

Rainfall in the Edmonton vicinity amounts to about 30 cm between May 1 and September 30. The Slave Lake and Wabasca areas receive approximately the same amount. The only significant variation within the region occurs in the Swan Hills uplands which receive up to 40 cm in this period. By way of comparison with more southerly areas of the province, the figure for Red Deer is 30 cm, while Lethbridge receives 24 cm of rainfall during the same period.

Snowfall

Mean annual snowfall in the Edmonton vicinity is about 130 cm. The Slave Lake and Wabasca areas receive about 140 cm, and the Swan Hills uplands receive between 160 and 200 cm. The winter recreation season, with higher snowfall and colder temperatures, is thus extended in both the northern portion of the Zone and the Swan Hills uplands. The winter recreation seasons, at available locations within or near Zone 14 are shown in Table III-1.

The snowfall within Zone 14, and in particular in the Swan Hills area, is relatively substantial when compared with other areas in Alberta. While the Banff townsite receives 218 cm annually, the Jasper townsite receives 137 cm. The Edson area receives 168 cm, while Red Deer is similar to Edmonton at 130 cm. Lethbridge averages 180 cm and the mean annual snowfall for Calgary is 154 cm. It is apparent from the figures that regional factors (such as chinooks in Calgary and Lethbridge) play some role in the amouht of snowfall received by an area, and that the Swan Hills area receives more snowfall than many areas of the province.

Table III-1

COMPARISON OF SEVERAL SNOW COVER-BASED SEASONS

Station	First Date			Last Date			Duration In Days		
	Winter Recreation Season*	Snow-Making Period	Reliable Snowcover Period	Winter Recreation Season	Snow-Making Period	Reliable Snowcover Period	Winter Recreation Season	Snow-Making Period	Reliable Snowcover Period
Fort McMurray	Oct. 31	Oct. 30	Nov. 10	Apr. 24	Apr. 5	Apr. 19	171	158	161
Whitecourt	Oct. 24	Nov. 2	Nov. 16	Apr. 25	Mar. 30	Apr. 13	167	149	149
Lac La Biche	Oct. 30	Nov. 3	Nov. 20	Apr. 20	Mar. 31	Apr. 9	178	149	141
Edmonton	Oct. 31	Nov. 5	Nov. 20	Apr. 23	Mar. 31	Mar. 28	176	147	129
Calgary	Oct. 19	Nov. 14	Dec. 3	May 4	Mar. 23	Mar. 19	153	130	107
Lethbridge	Oct. 22	Nov. 25	Dec. 7	Apr. 25	Mar. 16	Mar. 9	165	112	93

Source: Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Climate of the Prairie Provinces, Environment Canada, 1976

*Winter Recreation Season is defined to begin with the first snowfall. While it is understood that the first snowfali rarely remains on the ground, all summer recreation activities generally cease by this time.

Sunshine/Hours Of Daylight

The hours of sunshine per year decline as one moves north in the Zone. Edmonton and St. Albert generally receive between 2,200 and 2,300 hours of sunshine per year, while the Slave Lake vicinity receives between 2,000 and 2,100 hours, and the Wabasca-Peerless Lake areas receive just under 1,900 hours.

The hours of daylight (time between sunrise and sunset) also vary with latitude. On June 21, the hours of daylight in Edmonton are 17 hours and 3 minutes; in Slave Lake the length of daylight is increased by 24 minutes; and in Fort Vermilion (just north of the northern Zone 14 boundary) the difference is 1 hour and 16 minutes. During winter the reverse situation occurs. On December 21, Edmonton has 21 minutes more daylight than Slave Lake and 1 hour and 6 minutes more daylight than Fort Vermilion.

Table III-2 on the facing page indicates sunrise and sunset times in the Zone 14 area and provides comparison data for Red Deer, Calgary, and Lethbridge. On June 21 Slave Lake has a full hour of daylight more than Lethbridge, while Fort Vermilion has daylight for about 2 hours more than Lethbridge. The reverse of the summer pattern occurs on December 21, the more southerly latitudes experiencing more daylight than the Zone 14 area (refer to Figure III-1).

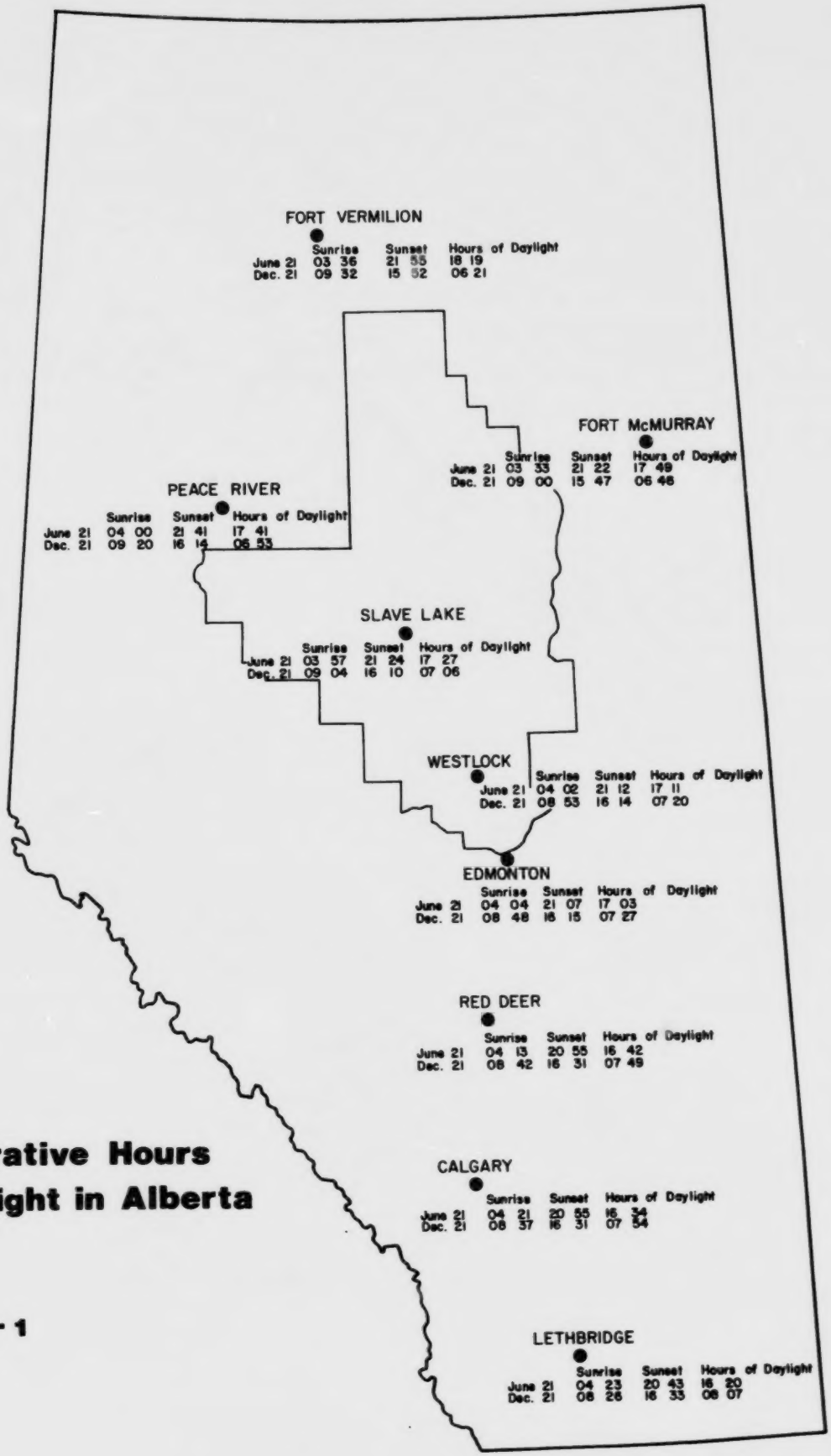
Seasons

The length of seasons varies considerably in Zone 14. For example St. Albert has about 101 days of high summer whereas Wabasca has only about 65 days. The winter season on the other hand is about 193 days at Wabasca whereas St. Albert has generally about 177 days (refer to Table III-2).

Table III-2

SUNRISE, SUNSET AND HOURS OF DAYLIGHT IN ZONE 14
RED DEER, CALGARY, AND LETHBRIDGE

Location	December 21	March 21	June 21	September 21
Edmonton				
Sunrise	8:48	6:34	4:04	6:18
Sunset	16:15	18:48	21:07	18:36
Hours Of Daylight	7:27	12:14	17:03	12:18
Slave Lake				
Sunrise	9:04	6:39	3:57	6:22
Sunset	16:10	18:54	21:24	18:42
Hours Of Daylight	7:06	12:15	17:27	12:19
Fort Vermilion				
Sunrise	9:32	6:43	3:36	6:26
Sunset	15:52	18:59	21:55	18:48
Hours Of Daylight	6:21	12:16	18:19	12:21
Red Deer				
Sunrise	8:42	6:35	4:13	6:20
Sunset	16:31	18:51	20:55	18:37
Hours Of Daylight	7:49	12:16	16:42	12:17
Calgary				
Sunrise	8:37	6:37	4:21	6:20
Sunset	16:31	18:51	20:55	18:37
Hours Of Daylight	7:54	12:14	16:34	12:17
Lethbridge				
Sunrise	8:26	6:33	4:23	6:16
Sunset	16:33	18:46	20:43	18:32
Hours Of Daylight	8:07	12:13	16:20	12:16


FORT VERMILION
Sunrise Sunset Hours of Daylight
June 21 03 36 21 55 18 19
Dec. 21 09 32 15 52 06 21
FORT McMURRAY
Sunrise Sunset Hours of Daylight
June 21 03 33 21 22 17 49
Dec. 21 09 00 15 47 06 48
PEACE RIVER
Sunrise Sunset Hours of Daylight
June 21 04 00 21 41 17 41
Dec. 21 09 20 16 14 06 53
SLAVE LAKE
Sunrise Sunset Hours of Daylight
June 21 03 57 21 24 17 27
Dec. 21 09 04 16 10 07 06
WESTLOCK
Sunrise Sunset Hours of Daylight
June 21 04 02 21 12 17 11
Dec. 21 08 53 16 14 07 20
EDMONTON
Sunrise Sunset Hours of Daylight
June 21 04 04 21 07 17 03
Dec. 21 08 48 16 15 07 27
RED DEER
Sunrise Sunset Hours of Daylight
June 21 04 13 20 55 16 42
Dec. 21 08 42 16 31 07 49
CALGARY
Sunrise Sunset Hours of Daylight
June 21 04 21 20 55 16 34
Dec. 21 08 37 16 31 07 54
LETHBRIDGE
Sunrise Sunset Hours of Daylight
June 21 04 23 20 43 16 20
Dec. 21 08 26 16 33 08 07

Comparative Hours of Daylight in Alberta

Figure III · 1

Table III-3

MEAN BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES OF SEASONS AND SEASON LENGTHS
ZONE 14, CALGARY AND LETHBRIDGE

Station	Start Of Winter	End Of Winter	First Day Of Spring Shoulder	First Day Of High Summer	Last Day Of High Summer	Winter	Duration Of Seasons In Days			
							Spring Shoulder	High Summer	Autumn Shoulder	Complete Summer
Fort Vermilion	Oct. 20	Apr. 26	May 11	May 28	Aug. 30	189	17	95	50	162
Wabasca	Oct. 24	May 4	May 19	Jun. 10	Sep. 13	193	22	65	71	158
High Prairie	Oct. 25	Apr. 20	May 5	May 30	Sep. 1	178	25	95	53	173
Athabasca	Oct. 27	Apr. 18	May 3	May 31	Sep. 3	174	28	96	53	177
St. Albert	Oct. 29	Apr. 23	May 8	May 28	Sep. 5	177	20	101	53	174
Calgary	Oct. 19	May 4	May 19	Jun. 6	Sep. 9	198	18	96	39	153
Lethbridge	Oct. 22	Apr. 25	May 10	May 19	Sep. 22	186	9	127	29	165

Source: Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Climate of the Prairie Provinces, Environment Canada, 1976.

Similar data for more southerly locations in the province demonstrate the influence of factors other than latitude on the seasons. Lethbridge, for example, has 127 days of high summer or about 25 percent more than in Zone 14. Calgary, however, has 96 days of high summer, about equivalent to Athabasca. This is due to the proximity of Calgary to the Rocky Mountains.

Calgary has a longer winter than Zone 14 areas, 198 days on average. The winter season in Lethbridge lasts 186 days, a period longer than the winter season in the Lesser Slave Lake area (High Prairie).

1.2 PHYSIOGRAPHY

The physiography of Zone 14 is illustrated graphically on Figure III-2. The Zone is comprised of eight physiographic areas which vary in landforms and topography.

The Eastern Alberta Plains area is flat to gently rolling, with areas of strongly rolling terrain in the area north of the Town of Athabasca. This strongly rolling characteristic is continued through the Pelican Mountain, Utikuma, and Birch Mountain Upland areas, although in these areas the higher land is interspersed with large muskeg and black spruce bogs.

The Lesser Slave Lowland is characterized by flat topography interspersed with minor drainage channels. A portion of this area, extending along the Athabasca River channel to the south, is more deeply incised where larger creeks and rivers drain the lowland.

The Loon River Lowland and the Algar Plain are large flat to gently rolling areas interspersed with swamps and muskeg areas throughout.

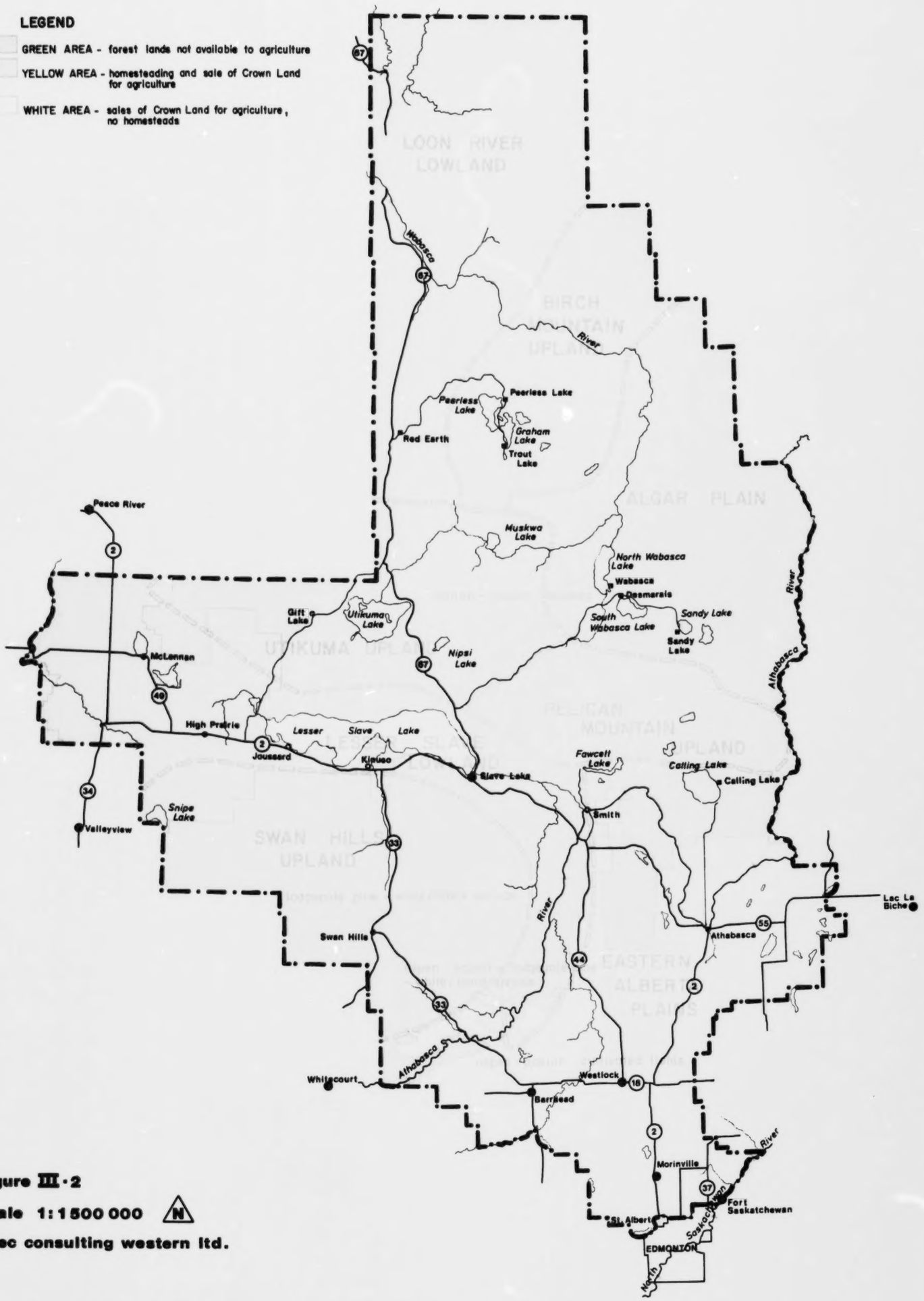


Figure III·2

Scale 1:1500 000 N

epec consulting western ltd.

Physiographic Subregions of Zone 14

The Swan Hills Upland area differs significantly from the terrain elsewhere in the Zone. This area contains large expanses of roughly rolling terrain incised by minor drainage channels with fairly steep valleys. The area generally lies at an elevation of between 610 and 1220 metres. However, in the area north of the Town of Swan Hills elevations of 1220 metres to 1830 metres occur.

1.3 BEDROCK GEOLOGY AND SURFICIAL DEPOSITS

The Midnight Twilight Zone is generally underlain with Upper Cretaceous and Tertiary period shales and sandstones. No areas of unique geologic formations which are relevant to tourism have been recorded in Zone 14.

Surficial deposits in the upland areas of Zone 14 are comprised generally of moraine and hummocky moraine consisting of glacial till materials. Lowland areas are generally outwash sands and gravels or lake deposits. North of the Peerless Lake area, lake deposited silts and clays are the characteristic surficial deposits.

1.4 VEGETATION

The natural vegetation of Zone 14 varies with physiography, latitude and elevation. Approximately 80 percent of Zone 14 lies within a Boreal Mixedwood area characterized primarily by aspen and poplar vegetation. The southerly portion of the mixedwood area is interspersed with white spruce and lodgepole pine, while the northerly portion north of Lesser Slave Lake is interspersed with black spruce and muskeg.

The area of Swan Hills and the Pelican Mountain Upland are Boreal Foothills areas characterized by aspen, poplar, and lodgepole pine with white and black spruce as secondary succession species. Through the highest elevations north of the Town of Swan Hills a Boreal Upland area of lodgepole pine, white spruce and black spruce is characteristic.

The area between St. Albert and Westlock and east to Redwater is an Aspen Parkland area, the characteristic vegetation of which is aspen and rough fescue grassland.

1.5 SOILS AND AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITY

The best soils for agricultural production in Zone 14 lie in the area between St. Albert and Westlock, west to Barrhead, and north along Highway 44 a few miles beyond Westlock. This area contains black soils which are highly productive for a wide range of agricultural crops. These lands are considered to be prime agricultural lands, and the priority for their future development lies with agriculture rather than with other uses.

The black soils area is surrounded by dark grey and dark grey wooded soils which are productive for a fairly wide range of agricultural crops. Climatic characteristics are the major limitation to the range of crops which can be produced. Grey wooded soils extend these good agricultural lands west of Barrhead to the Athabasca River and north of Westlock along Highway 44 to Jarvie.

The areas west of Lesser Slave Lake through Falher, McLennan, High Prairie and Girouxville contain dark grey and dark grey wooded soils, as do minor areas south of Driftpile and Kinuso. A thin band of these soils lies south and west of the town of Athabasca and runs east to the edge of the region in the Boyle area. These soils are capable of producing a wide range of crops.

The remainder of Zone 14 is comprised of soils which generally have productivity limitations, removing them from the category of prime agricultural lands.

1.6 RIVERS AND LAKES

The Midnight Twilight Zone contains within its boundaries portions of three major drainage basins.

The southern portion of the region drains in a southeasterly direction as part of the North Saskatchewan River Basin which eventually flows to Hudson Bay.

Approximately three quarters of the zone, including the Swan Hills, Slave Lake, McLennan/Falher and Calling Lake area, is part of the Athabasca River Basin which ultimately drains to the Arctic Ocean.

The north portion of the study area (north of Lesser Slave Lake) forms part of the Peace River Drainage Basin, draining along the Wabasca and Peace Rivers to the Arctic Ocean.

Two major rivers in Zone 14 are of significance from a tourism point of view. The Athabasca River is the major river valley through the south, central and easterly portion of the zone. The Wabasca River is the major drainage channel from the area north of Lesser Slave Lake to the Peace River system.

Lesser Slave Lake is the largest body of water in Zone 14 and the second largest water body lying entirely within Alberta.

The northern portion of the zone contains groups of good fishing lakes in the Peerless Lake and Wabasca Lakes area respectively. East of Lesser Slave Lake lies the group of Fawcett, Paul, Orloff, Calling, and Rock Island Lakes which have fishing, boating and cottaging potential. Northwest of the Town of Athabasca the group of lakes containing Lawrence, Meyer, Baptiste, Island, and the Chain Lakes has experienced some recreation development, and shows promise for expanded recreation use.

The southwestern portion of Zone 14 contains numerous small lakes, the largest of which are Nakamun, Sandy, Lac la Nonne and Thunder Lake.

1.7 NATURAL RESOURCE CAPABILITIES -- CANADA LAND INVENTORY OVERVIEW

The Canada Land Inventory (CLI) provides an assessment in relative terms of the capability of the natural resources of Canada to produce agricultural crops, forest resources, wildlife (ungulates, waterfowl) and to sustain recreation uses. Lands with the highest capability are rated as Class 1, while very low capability is indicated by Classes 6 and 7.

The wildlife species for which the habitat is suitable are indicated, and any constraints to production are listed in the Wildlife Inventory.

The Inventory of Recreation Capability lists the types of recreational uses which the land resource can sustain. Extensive recreational uses are dispersed uses which involve few people in a large area. Such uses would include hiking, cross-country skiing and nature viewing. Intensive recreation generally involves large numbers of people in a smaller area and/or the development of physical structures. Intensive recreation uses would include resort lodging, cottages, beaches, and ski hills. It should be noted that the C.L.I. system does not specifically rate the capability of the natural resource to sustain the impact of mechanized recreation (four wheel drive, all terrain vehicles, snowmobiles).

1.7.1 Recreation Capability

The highest land capabilities for intensive recreation (lodging, beaches, cottages) exist along the major lake shorelines. Peerless and Graham Lakes, the Wabasca Lakes group, Calling and Fawcett Lakes, and lakes northwest of the Town of Athabasca show good potential. The shoreline of Lesser Slave Lake has large stretches of land highly capable of sustaining intensive recreation pursuits.

The best extensive recreation areas (hiking, cross-country skiing) are in the area north of Swan Hills to Lesser Slave Lake and in the area east of Lesser Slave Lake. The valley area between Clyde and Athabasca east of Highway 2 also shows high capability for recreation.

1.7.2 Waterfowl Capability

The prime waterfowl areas in Zone 14 are north of Lesser Slave Lake. These migration stopping or staging areas for waterfowl include Utikuma Lake and Muskwa Lake. In the area west of St. Albert, Big Lake is also a significant staging location.

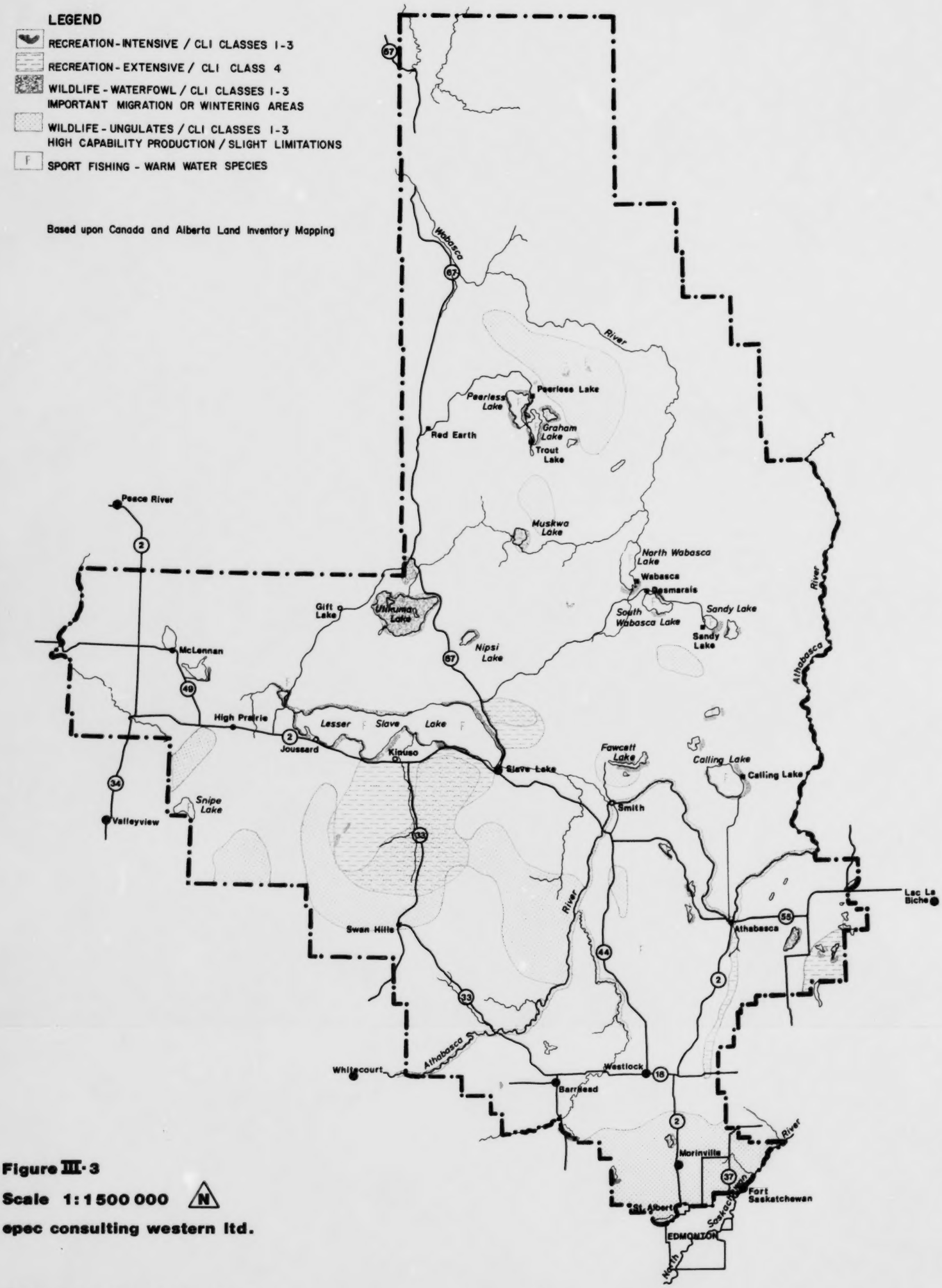
1.7.3 Ungulate Capability

The largest areas demonstrating high ungulate (moose, elk, deer) capability are the Swan Hills area, the area south of Lesser Slave Lake, and an area northeast of Peerless Lake. While the south portion of Zone 14 north as far as Legal demonstrates high capability, most of this area is privately owned farmland and is less accessible to hunters than forested Crown land may be. Many smaller areas of good ungulate potential exist in the Zone.

1.7.4 Sportfish Capability

Good sportfish capability is indicated on the lakes which have shown higher recreation potential. These lakes include the Peerless and Wabasca Lake groups, the Calling/Fawcett Lakes group, Lesser Slave Lake, and the area of lakes northwest of the Town of Athabasca. The portion of Zone 14 south of Athabasca does not demonstrate high sportfish capability.

The higher capability areas in Zone 14 indicated on Figure III-3 will be discussed in detail in subsequent sections.



Midnight Twilight Zone
Resource Capability Overview

2.0 PLANNING SUBREGIONS — DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

The Midnight Twilight Tourist Zone was divided into four subregions for the purpose of further analysis on the basis of distinguishable biophysical aspects as well as consideration of primary use, public ownership, recreational use and capability, and access. The subsequent sections of this chapter identify the physical characteristics and attributes of the four subregions in view of the tourist development potential they represent. Figure III-4 shows the four subregions graphically.

2.1 THE EDMONTON PLAINS SUBREGION

The Edmonton Plains Subregion comprises the south portion of the study area from a point northeast of Whitecourt along the west bank of the Athabasca River north to the upland areas lying north of Fawcett Lake and Rock Island Lake and to the east boundary of Zone 14.

Characteristics

- Relatively flat plain with rolling land in the north portion;
- Partially forested with aspen poplar;
- Prime agricultural land in south half of area, with most of these lands in agricultural use;
- Two existing intensive recreation areas (Lac la Nonne area and Baptiste Lake area);
- Existing cottage development on many lakes;
- Good access to population centres via Highways 2 and 44;
- Lands are largely in private ownership;
- Encompasses a large portion of the existing Zone 14 population and development.

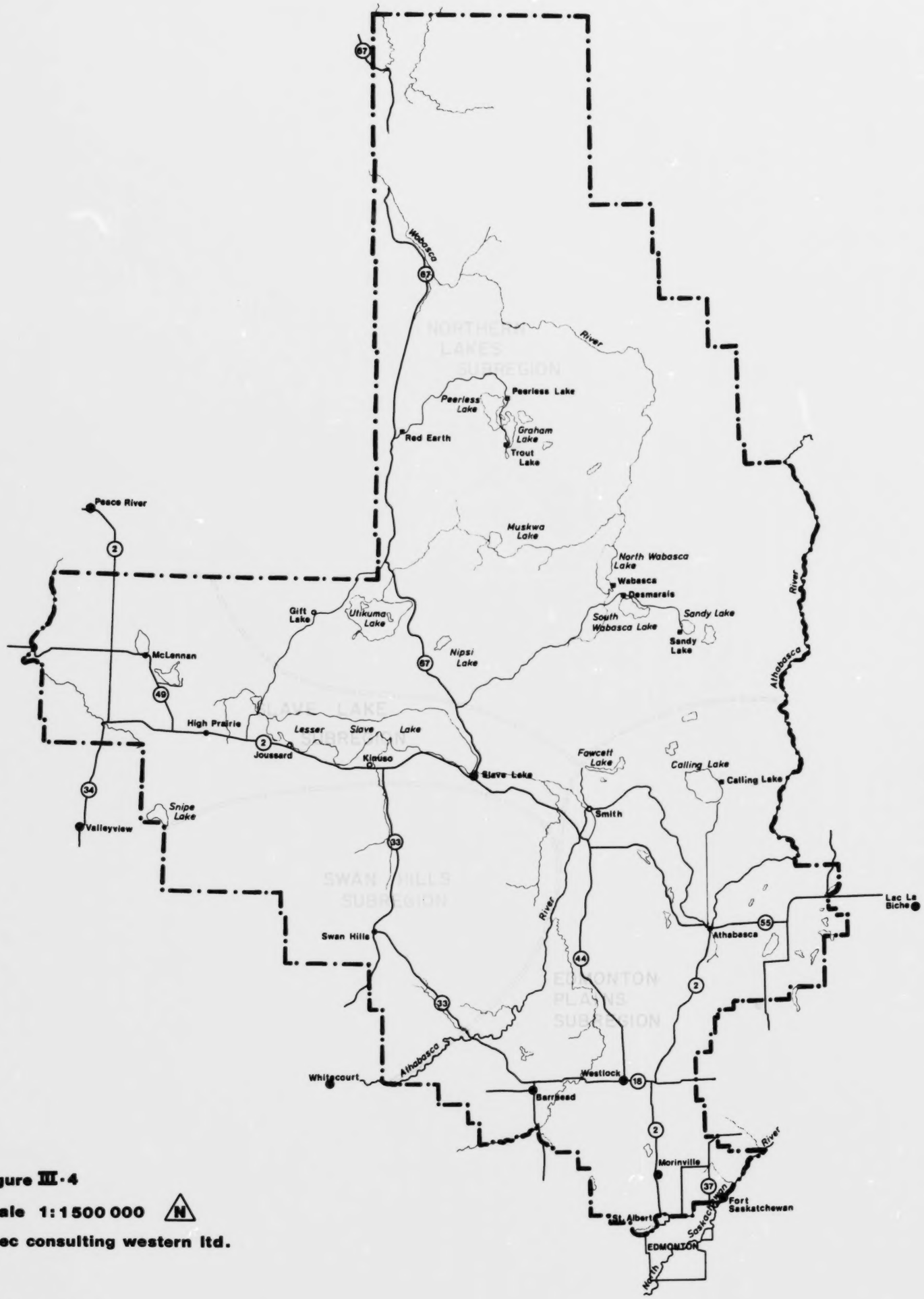


Figure III-4

Scale 1:1500 000 N

epec consulting western ltd.

Subregions of Zone 14

2.2 THE SWAN HILLS SUBREGION

The Swan Hills Subregion describes the southwest area of the Zone west of the Athabasca River, along the south portion of Slave Lake and west to the Zone boundary at Snipe Lake.

Characteristics

- Upland region, strongly rolling to rough terrain;
- Forested area, timber, gas, oil development;
- Mainly Crown land;
- Poor agricultural soils;
- Sparsely populated, with a single urban community;
- Good hunting area;
- Few lakes, low recreation lake potential;
- Some stream fishing potential;
- Poor access to lands away from Highway 33;
- Present recreational use is dispersed and low.

2.3 THE SLAVE LAKE SUBREGION

The Slave Lake Subregion includes the lowland areas on either side of the lake as well as the area of good agricultural land west of Lesser Slave Lake.

Characteristics

- Flat, lowland area, the edges of which are gently undulating;
- Large area of good agricultural land to the west;
- Large areas of cultivated land to the west;
- Partially developed recreation infrastructure on the south shore of the lake;

- Includes the largest recreational lake in the Zone, high capability for lakeshore recreation;
- Forest cover is predominantly aspen poplar;
- Access excellent along south shore of lake and west portion of Subregion;
- Existing recreation uses, provincial parks, municipal campgrounds, private beach resorts.

2.4 THE NORTHERN LAKES SUBREGION

The Northern Lakes Subregion includes the entire portion of the region north of the east-west line from Slave Lake to Fawcett Lake and Rock Island Lake.

Characteristics

- A variety of upland and lowland areas interspersed with muskeg;
- Generally forest covered with a deciduous, coniferous mixture;
- Primarily Crown land;
- Poor agricultural land with little or no agricultural uses in place;
- Two lake groups with some recreation potential;
- Good fishing potential on major lakes;
- Good extensive recreation potential on Wabasca River (wilderness canoeing, hunting);
- Existing recreation use is very low and dispersed in nature.

The identified planning subregions are logical divisions which partition Zone 14 into manageable areas for further analysis. The analysis of the natural resource base and recreation potential of these subregions is conducted in the sections following.

3.0 SUBREGIONAL ANALYSIS — RECREATION POTENTIAL OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE BASE

3.1 THE EDMONTON PLAINS SUBREGION

The agricultural capability of the Edmonton Plains Subregion has, to a large extent, defined the land use for a major portion of the area. The black soils which occur in the area north of St. Albert and the dark grey and dark grey wooded soils which occur north of Westlock and west of Barrhead are prime agricultural lands and have generally been converted to agricultural use.

Prime agricultural lands continue in a thin band on either side of Highway No. 44 north of Westlock to the community of Fawcett. Prime agricultural lands occur in and around the communities of Morinville, Bon Accord, Gibbons, Legal, and Clyde. High productivity land also occurs in the area between Boyle and Colinton and in the areas west and southeast of Athabasca.

Most of the prime lands in these areas have been cleared for agricultural production, and from this agricultural resource base, the towns, villages, and hamlets of the area have grown as service centers.

The recreation land use potential of this agricultural area is relatively low, primarily because the lands are privately owned and presently in agricultural production.

The lands north of the Town of Athabasca in the Edmonton Plains Subregion are not prime agricultural lands, although certain areas have potential for agricultural production. In addition the majority of this area is Crown land, and is presently forested. These factors increase the recreational tourism potential of the area north of Athabasca.

The recreation potential of the Edmonton Plains Subregion is largely related to the lake resources which exist in the area and to their potential for new recreation development.

In the area west of St. Albert, four recreational lakes are of significance -- Thunder Lake, Lac la Nonne, Nakamun Lake, and Sandy Lake.

Thunder Lake has a shoreline with moderately high capability for resort or cottage development, for boating, and for angling along the east shore. Thunder Lake Provincial Park presently occupies this area of prime lake shoreline, and the beach, swimming, and boating potential is developed with high quality facilities.

Lac la Nonne is extensively used for private cottage development. It has reasonably warm water and fishing potential for northern pike, walleye, and perch. Several reaches of high capability shoreline for boating and cottages exist on the lake, and some unused capacity has been identified by planning agencies. The future use of the recreational lake shorelands is controlled by the County of Lac St. Anne through the Lac la Nonne Lake Management Plan.

Nakamun Lake, to the southeast of Lac la Nonne, is similar to the former lake in that it has significant cottage development and its use is controlled through the Nakamun Lake Management Plan.

Sandy Lake, lying southeast of Nakamun Lake, has three significant stretches of high capability shoreline for cottages and boating use. The lake, as with the others, is fairly heavily used by a regional population, and its future use is controlled through the Sandy Lake Management Plan.

These four lakes have common characteristics in that they are shallow, warm, and have weedy shorelines. The water quality is therefore low (eutrophic) from a recreation perspective. The area is also used fairly heavily at the present time by cottagers primarily from the Edmonton area. Future land use controls have been placed on the shorelines of three of the lakes due to increasing use and the sensitive nature of the resource.

Skeleton Lake, west of the Town of Boyle, is warm and shallow, presently subject to heavy cottage pressure, and has recently been controlled by the Skeleton Lake Area Structure Plan.

The area west and northwest of the Town of Athabasca contains a number of lakes, lake shoreline areas, and upland areas which demonstrate high potential for a range of recreational land uses. This area stretches from Cross Lake Provincial Park on Steele Lake northward to Francis Lake, Baptiste Lake, Island Lake, Ghost Lake, Meyer Lake, the Chain Lakes and Lawrence Lake.

Moderately high capability shoreline areas for cottages, lodging, boating, and beach activities occur on Steele, Baptiste, Island and Lawrence Lakes, with the other lakes demonstrating lower potential for lake related recreation.

Baptiste and Island Lakes are presently heavily developed with cottages, while Cross Lake Provincial Park occupies the most capable shorelines of Steele Lake. A campground and some cottage lots exist on Lawrence Lake, although development is minimal.

The area surrounding this lake group is a mildly rolling upland area of grey wooded soils with aspen, poplar, and some white spruce tree cover. These upland areas lend themselves to dispersed activities such as wildlife viewing, hiking, cross-country skiing and nature interpretation.

Sportfish capability on these lakes is good for warm water species. Baptiste Lake has the highest capability, with no limitations to production. Steele, Island and Lawrence Lakes have few limitations. The area is presently fished by a local and regional population, with northern pike, perch and some walleye being the main catches.

The Big Bend Integrated Resource Plan, co-ordinated by Alberta Energy and Natural Resources, controls the use of a portion of this area, excluding Island and Baptiste Lakes. The future use of Island and Baptiste Lakes is controlled by Lake Management Plans.

The use of some of the lakes in the area is limited by poor access. This applies to the Chain Lakes, Meyer Lake, and the west shoreline of Lawrence Lake in particular. Access to the general area is, however, excellent since Highway No. 2 north from Baptiste Lake to Highway No. 44 west of Lawrence Lake has been recently paved.

A second area of high potential lake resources occurs in the north portion of the Edmonton Plains Subregion and includes Calling, Fawcett, Rock Island, and Orloff Lakes.

Because the area is primarily Crown land, the present use of these lakes has been limited to a Provincial Park, Government campgrounds, an Indian Reserve and one private resort. Access is also limited to two roadways which do not, at this time, connect. Access to Orloff and Rock Island Lakes is limited to aircraft and all terrain vehicles.

The shoreline capability of this lake group is moderate to high for boating, lodging, cottages, and water access for angling, and each lake has some shoreline which is capable of sustaining beach activities.

The south shorelines of Fawcett and Rock Island Lakes, the south and east shore of Orloff Lake, and the southeast and west shores of Calling Lake are the moderate to high capability areas. While these areas are interspersed with lower capability shoreline resources, large portions of these shorelines have significant recreation potential.

The Pelican Upland, an area which has moderate capability for dispersed uses, connects with the north shore of Fawcett Lake. The area surrounding the west half of Fawcett Lake also demonstrates high potential for the production of ungulates (moose, elk and deer). The species existing in the area are primarily moose and whitetail deer.

These lakes are highly capable of supporting sportfishing for warm water species. Fawcett and Orloff Lakes have no limitations to sportfish production, and are presently fished for northern pike, whitefish and walleye. Rock Island Lake and Calling Lake have minor limitations to sportfish production and produce northern pike, whitefish, and walleye. All of these lakes were commercially fished in 1982, the major catch being whitefish and tulibee. Appendix H outlines commercial fishing catches for Zone 14.

Several linear areas within the Edmonton Plains Subregion demonstrate high capability for recreation use. The Athabasca River has good potential for semi-wilderness and wilderness travel by boat or canoe through the Subregion. The Pembina River, the Sturgeon River and the North Saskatchewan River can also be travelled, although they do not have a similar wilderness or semi-wilderness potential.

The area between Fort Assiniboine and Klondike Crossing, along the Athabasca River, has been studied in detail by Alberta Recreation and Parks. Recreation capability for dispersed uses such as hiking, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing (scenic vistas of the Athabasca River exist), and nature interpretation are indicated.

The Tawatinaw River Valley between the area east of Clyde and north through Colinton to Athabasca has high capability for dispersed activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing and nature interpretation or viewing. The historic Athabasca Landing Trail, located in this same valley, increases the attraction of the area for extensive recreation use (Figure III-5).

The Edmonton Plains Subregion is an area within which two moderate to high potential intensive recreation areas exist in the Calling-Fawcett and the Lawrence-Steele Lakes areas. While the nature and extent of future recreation development of these areas lies with implementation of the policies of The Big Bend Integrated Resource Plan, the areas demonstrate moderate to high potential for lodging, boating, swimming, nature interpretation, hunting and fishing.

3.2 THE SWAN HILLS SUBREGION

The Swan Hills Subregion is a large forested upland area of roughly rolling physiography, poor access, and high potential for extensive types of recreation pursuits.

Agricultural capability within the Subregion is generally low, and little if any of the land resource has been converted to agricultural production. No lands in the area are classified as prime agricultural lands. Lands capable of rough grazing or pasture use occur in the area between eight and 40 kilometres west of the Athabasca River and parallel the river through the region. This area encompasses the drainage basins of the Freeman River, Doris Creek, Timeu Creek, Akiuni Creek, the Coutts River, the Saulteaux River, and the Otauwau River as they flow in an easterly direction from the Swan Hills Upland to the Athabasca River. Within the northern portion of the Subregion, in the lands along and between the Swan and Driftpile Rivers, some lands capable of pasture and rough grazing exist.

EDMONTON PLAINS SUBREGION
Resource Capabilities for Recreation

MODERATE RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- -SHORT STRETCHES OF PRIME BEACH
- -GOOD FISHING (WALLEYE, NORTHERN PIKE, PERCH)
- -FOREST COVERED BACKSHORE UPLANDS
- -GOOD ACCESS TO FAWCETT AND CALLING LAKES
- -POOR ACCESS TO OTHER LAKES

LOW - MODERATE RESOURCE CAPABILITY - ATHABASCA RIVER
- -CANOEING - EASY WILDERNESS FLAT WATER TO CALLING RIVER ; CHALLENGING WHITEWATER CANOEING FURTHER NORTH
- -GOOD FISHING WHERE TRIBUTARIES ENTER ATHABASCA RIVER (WALLEYE)
- -GOOD ACCESS ; HISTORIC ROUTE

HIGH - MODERATE RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- -GOOD FISHING (WALLEYE, NORTHERN PIKE, PERCH)
- -POOR BEACHES FOR SWIMMING
- -SEMI - WILDERNESS
- -SHALLOW LAKES, ALGAE PROBLEM
- -GOOD ACCESS TO LAKES ALONG HIGHWAY 2, BUT POOR ACCESS TO INTERIOR LAKES

MODERATE - HIGH RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- -ATHABASCA LANDING TRAIL
- -HIGH HISTORIC/ CULTURAL INTEREST
- -GOOD EXTENSIVE RECREATION CAPABILITY (HIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING)
- -GOOD ACCESS

MODERATE RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- -SMALL BEACH AREAS, MODERATE FOR SWIMMING
- -SHALLOW LAKES, ALGAE PROBLEM
- -GOOD FISHING (NORTHERN PIKE, PERCH, WALLEYE IN LAC LA NONNE)
- -GOOD ACCESS

LOW - MODERATE RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- -NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER
- -LOW - MODERATE CAPABILITY FOR BOATING
- -GOOD ACCESS

LAND CAPABILITY FOR RECREATION

RECREATION CAPABILITY - INTENSIVE

OOOOO RECREATION CAPABILITY - EXTENSIVE

N

SCALE 1:1000 000 APPROXIMATE

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Figure III·5

Small areas within the lands described as being capable of rough grazing or pasture are being used for agriculture. These lands lie primarily in the areas south of Kinuso and Driftpile along Lesser Slave Lake. Agriculture is not, therefore, a major land use within the Swan Hills Subregion, nor can it be expected to become a major use of the land in the future.

The combination of upland area, grey wooded soils, and higher than average annual precipitation, makes the Swan Hills Subregion suitable for commercial forestry. The highest areas are forested with lodgepole pine, white spruce and black spruce, while lower areas have aspen, poplar, white spruce and black spruce species. The forestry industry is active in the area and is subject to a forest management plan under the direction of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources.

Recreation capability in the Swan Hills Subregion is related primarily to extensive recreation such as hiking, snowmobiling, hunting, and other dispersed activities.

Wallace Mountain, approximately 24 km northwest of the Town of Swan Hills has high potential for viewing, affording an opportunity for a panoramic view of much of the Swan Hills. It is also capable of supporting downhill skiing and cross-country ski trails with frequent views.

The area of the Swan Hills, beginning approximately 40 km west of the Town of Swan Hills and running in an easterly and northeasterly arc to the area of Lesser Slave Lake south of Wagner, has uniformly high extensive recreation capability. This area is highly capable for wildlife viewing, hiking, nature study, and has many locations which are vantage points affording a view of parts of the Subregion.

The river and creek areas which drain east and northeast from Swan Hills to the Athabasca River are of lower capability for extensive recreation uses. This area, in general terms, forms a triangle between Fort Assiniboine, Swan Hills, and Mitsue Lake east of Lesser Slave Lake.

The rivers and creeks which drain to the north and northwest from the Swan Hills, however, are capable generally of sustaining wildlife viewing, hiking and providing access for angling. These river basins include the Sawridge Creek basin, the Swan River basin and the Driftpile River basin as well as their major tributary creeks (Inverness, Boulder, Adams, Moosehorn).

The area west and northwest of the Swan Hills Upland generally has lower capability for extensive recreation than does the upland area.

High capability lake resources are limited in the Swan Hills Subregion, with the only prime capability shoreline being along the east shore of Goose Lake to the southwest of Fort Assiniboine (cottaging, boating, sportfish, access).

Sportfish capability in the Subregion is moderately high on a number of creeks and rivers, and on a few lakes.

Walleye, northern pike and perch are the major species. Arctic grayling, a sportfish which is generally available in colder northern rivers or in mountainous areas, can be fished on some of the rivers of the region. The Freeman River is one of those accessible rivers known for its sportfish production.

The waterfowl production capability of this Subregion is relatively low, with numerous constraints to production.

The Swan Hills Subregion demonstrates uniformly high capability for ungulate production; with few limitations to the development of moose, elk, and deer in the area.

A 75 square kilometre area of the highest capability habitat for moose wintering lies north of Roche Lake.

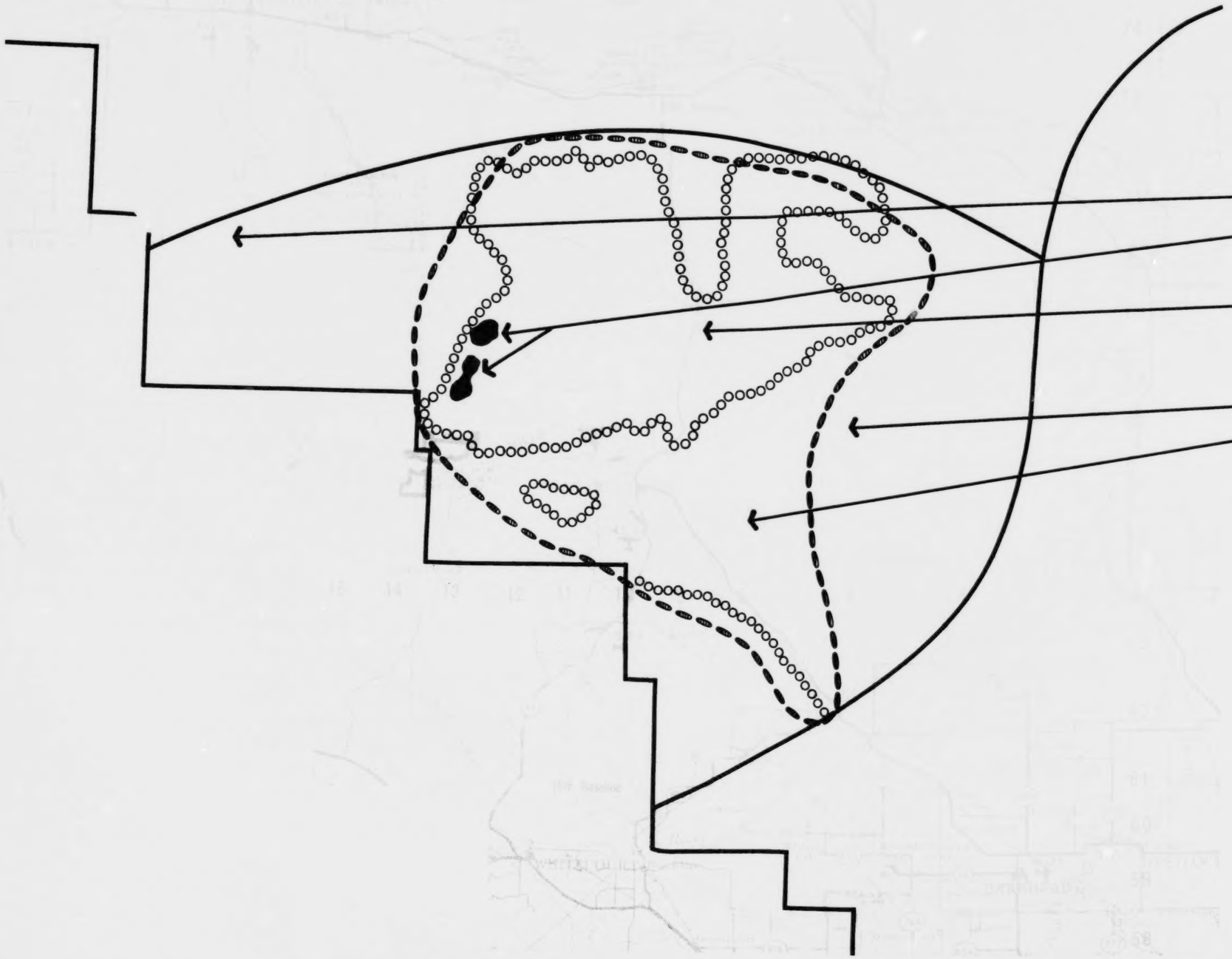
The area south of the Swan Hills Uplands and Timeu Creek is of somewhat lower capability, in that it is lower flatter land affording less protection for these species. Lands north of the Town of Swan Hills, however, are prime lands for moose, elk and deer. The creek and river systems in the Wallace Mountain, Swan Hills and Moose Mountain areas show high capability for wintering habitat for these species.

The Swan Hills grizzly exists in small numbers in the upland area of this Subregion. The occurrence of grizzly bears is relatively rare in areas outside the mountain zones of the province. The grizzly is hunted in a controlled manner and will remain carefully managed in years to come. While not a major tourist attraction for the area, the Swan Hills grizzly is a relatively unique species which is of some interest.

The Goose Mountain Ecological Reserve is located west of the Town of Swan Hills on the boundary of the Subregion. This area has been set aside to preserve representative species of the Boreal Foothills ecoregion, in particular subalpine vegetation, peatland, and one unique species. Lastly, it is set aside for research purposes in the future. Tourism is not encouraged in the area.

The natural resource potential of the Swan Hills Subregion is highly capable of sustaining extensive recreation pursuits and is particularly suited to such pursuits in the spring (fishing), in the fall (hunting), and in the winter (skiing, snowmobiling) seasons.

SWAN HILLS SUBREGION
Resource Capabilities for Recreation



LOW - MODERATE CAPABILITY FOR EXTENSIVE RECREATION

HIGH RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- DOWNHILL SKIING
- PANORAMIC VIEWS
- EXTENSIVE RECREATION

HIGH RESOURCE CAPABILITY FOR EXTENSIVE FORMS OF RECREATION
- HILLY TERRAIN, SEMI-WILDERNESS TO WILDERNESS
- GOOD HUNTING, MOOSE AND DEER
- FEW LAKES AND NAVIGABLE RIVERS, BUT GOOD POTENTIAL FOR FISHING - ARCTIC GRAYLING IN SOME STREAMS
- HISTORIC TRAIL THROUGH SWAN HILLS AREA (CHALMERS TRAIL)

PRIME MOOSE HABITAT

LOW - MODERATE RESOURCE CAPABILITY FOR EXTENSIVE FORMS OF RECREATION

LAND CAPABILITY FOR RECREATION

RECREATION CAPABILITY - INTENSIVE

OOOO RECREATION CAPABILITY - EXTENSIVE

N

SCALE 1: 670 000 APPROXIMATE

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Figure III-6

While many areas within the Subregion are highly capable of sustaining recreation uses, few areas have good access at the present time. Access to through-traffic is limited because Highway 33 remains a difficult gravel roadway to negotiate in wet conditions (Figure III-6).

The Swan Hills Subregion is a relatively unique upland ecoregion in close proximity to regional populations. Its primary attraction lies with its extensive recreation potential and with the wildlife resources of the area. The main impediment to realization of its recreation potential at the present time appears to be the lack of access to areas separated from Highway 33.

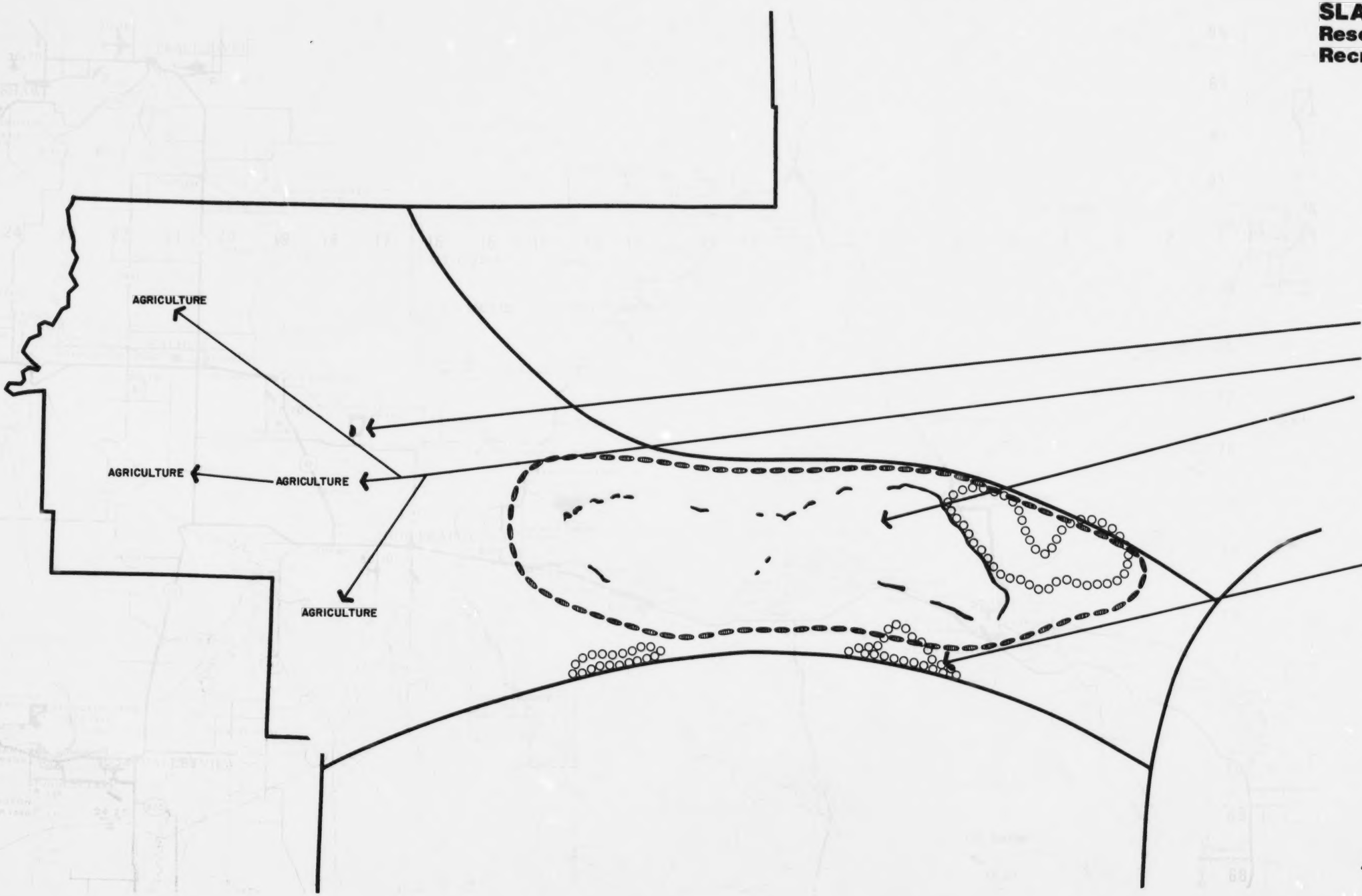
3.3 THE SLAVE LAKE SUBREGION

The Slave Lake Subregion is comprised of a band of lowland between the Swan Hills Upland, the Utikuma and Pelican Upland areas, and the western boundary of Zone 14. The primary recreational feature of the Subregion is Lesser Slave Lake itself, a water body which occupies close to one quarter of the area (Figure III-7).

Agriculture is an important industry in the Subregion, with approximately half the Subregional area rated as moderate to high capability for crop production. The prime agricultural lands begin in the area south of Kinuso and run west along the south shore in a band between 9 and 20 kilometres wide to the area of Snipe Lake. The Snipe Lake area contains a broad ring of land 12 kilometres wide which is moderately productive, and shows high capability for pasture use.

The area west of the lake, including the communities of Grouard, High Prairie, McLennan , Falher, and Girouxville is largely prime agricultural land. This land area, while not entirely in agricultural production at the present time, is targeted for agricultural use by the Provincial Government.

SLAVE LAKE SUBREGION
Resource Capabilities for Recreation


AGRICULTURE
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HIGH RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- PRIME COTTAGE, BEACH SHORELINE
LOW RECREATION CAPABILITY
- PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS
HIGH RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- EXCELLENT BEACHES
- GOOD FISHING
- VERY LARGE LAKE BUT HAS A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS FOR BOATING
- HAS SOME HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE
- HILLY UPLAND EAST OF LAKE HAS CAPABILITY FOR EXTENSIVE RECREATION
- VERY GOOD ACCESS FROM HIGHWAYS 2, 67 AND S.R. 750
- UPLAND - HIGH EXTENSIVE CAPABILITY
LAND CAPABILITY FOR RECREATION
RECREATION CAPABILITY - INTENSIVE
RECREATION CAPABILITY - EXTENSIVE
N
SCALE 1: 670 000 APPROXIMATE

epec consulting western ltd.

Figure III·7

Intensive recreation potential of the Slave Lake Subregion is centered on Lesser Slave Lake, and a single additional lake with potential. The east shoreline of Winagami Lake has a stretch of prime shoreline for boating, cottages or lodging, and beach activities. Winagami Lake Provincial Park has developed the recreation potential of this shoreline with high quality facilities and amenities.

Lesser Slave Lake has approximately 64 kilometres of prime recreation shoreline for boating, lodging, and for swimming activities. On the east and northeast shoreline there is a nearly continuous stretch for approximately 32 kilometres of prime shoreline area. Slave Lake Provincial Park is located along this shoreline. Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park occupies a second prime shoreline area in the northwest portion of the lake. The entire north shoreline of the lake is dotted with short stretches (2-3 km) of prime shoreline interspersed with shoreline of lower capability. High recreation capability exists along the south shoreline near Joussard (1.5 km), northwest of Kinuso (about 1 km prime area and 8 km of moderate/high shoreline), and between Canyon Creek and the Sawridge Indian Reserve (12 km).

The shoreline potential of the Slave Lake Subregion is enhanced by the high capability upland recreation areas which connect with the lake in certain areas. South of Wagner the Swan Hills Upland area nears the lake shoreline. This upland area has high capability for wildlife viewing, recreation, hiking, cross-country skiing and other dispersed uses.

A large upland area (320$\pm$ square kilometres) demonstrating high capability for extensive recreation lies east of Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park in the Marten Mountain area. The area is capable of supporting various dispersed recreation activities, offers viewing potential of the lake, and has 2 areas which are capable of supporting downhill ski activities.

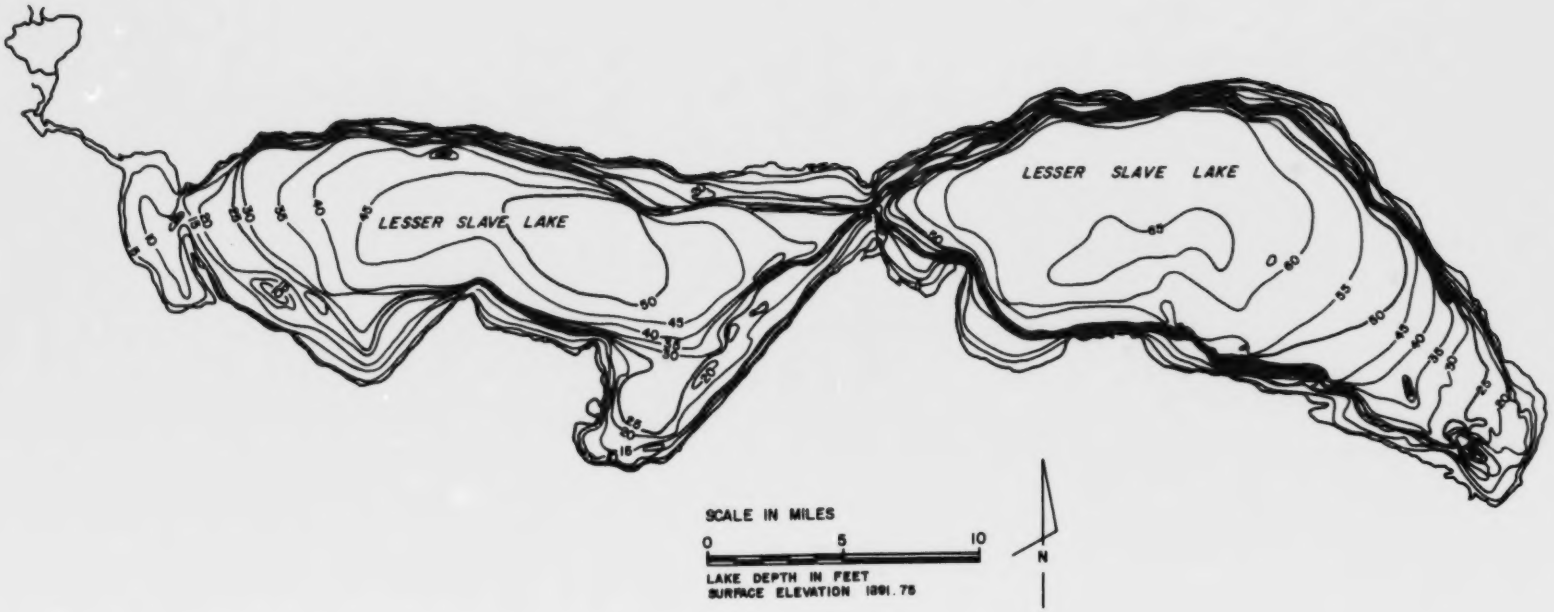
The north shoreline of Lesser Slave Lake is Crown land with limited access. The south shoreline has access from Highway No. 2 and contains the communities of Joussard, Driftpile, Faust, Kinuso, Canyon Creek, Widewater, and Wagner. In addition, the Sucker Creek, Driftpile River, Swan River, and Sawridge Indian Reserves are located along the shoreline. The Town of Slave Lake at the southeast shore of the lake, is the major community and service center on the lake.

Lesser Slave Lake is a major commercial and sportfish resource. In the 1982 commercial fishing season, 638,910 kilograms of fish were caught on the Lake commercially (see Appendix H). Two government wharves, at Joussard and Canyon Creek, provide safe harbour for fishing and pleasure craft. Major sportfish species include whitefish, walleye, northern pike, and a limited catch of perch. The predominant commercial catch in 1982 consisted of sucker (33%), whitefish (30%) and ling (18%).

Although the lake is large in area, encompassing over 1000 square kilometres, it is comparatively shallow. Its maximum depth is approximately 20m (65 feet) as is indicated on the bathymetric map (Figure III-8). The gentle gradient of the lake also represents a problem for the launching of larger boats and particularly for large, fixed keel sailboats. The shoals and sand bars are shifting regularly from wind action on the shallow water. Lastly in the winter and early spring seasons ice thrust can be a major problem, particularly along the east shore.

The development of marina facilities on the east shore of the lake, should this be considered, would potentially require dredging and breakwaters to provide safe harbour for large boats.

The natural resource base of the Slave Lake Subregion is highly capable of sustaining lake related intensive recreation development. Extensive recreation capability is relatively high in two major areas which are contiguous with good shoreline resources. This enhances the overall potential of the area for recreation activities.



Bathymetry of Lesser Slave Lake

Figure III · 8

3.4 THE NORTHERN LAKES SUBREGION

The Northern Lakes Subregion is the vast wilderness and semi-wilderness land of the Midnight Twilight Zone lying north of Lesser Slave Lake. It is sparsely inhabited with natural resource, Indian, and Metis communities. Its industrial base lies with the renewable and non-renewable resources which exist in the Subregion.

Agricultural land uses do not occur in the Subregion to any significant extent. The capability of the dark grey wooded and grey wooded soils of the area relegates them generally to lower categories than prime agricultural lands. A certain portion of the land area is capable of pasture and hay production, but its location relative to markets precludes such development at the present time.

The capability of the Subregion to support extensive recreation use is low relative to other areas of the Zone. However, the ungulate production potential of the Subregion is very high, and hunting is a major activity in the area. Higher capability areas for moose production abound due to many upland areas throughout the Subregion. The upland areas are capable of sustaining elk, deer and caribou species, although in populations less numerous than moose populations.

The two major lake groups in the Subregion have stretches of shoreline which are excellent for cottages, lodges, boating, and access for fishing. Small stretches of prime beach shoreline also exist. These lake groups are in the Wabasca Lakes and the Peerless Lake area.

The Wabasca group includes Godin Lake, North Wabasca Lake, South Wabasca Lake, Sandy Lake, and Pelican Lake. North Wabasca Lake, along its south shore, has prime shoreline for boating, lodging, and camping. At the community of Wabasca on the southeast shore a prime beach and swimming shoreline exists.

The east shoreline of Sandy Lake has high capability for boating, swimming and lodging. The west shoreline, however, has low capability for intensive recreation pursuits.

South Wabasca Lake has a north shoreline east of the community of Desmarais which is a high capability area for boating, camping, and beach activities. Along the south shore a one kilometre stretch of land is rated as prime shoreline for swimming, camping, and boating.

The Peerless Lake area, including Peerless, Graham, and Vandersteen Lakes, is a second area of high recreation capability. Peerless Lake is a relatively deep lake with large segments of shoreline which have high capability for boating, bathing, camping, recreation lodging and other water oriented recreation uses.

Vandersteen and Graham Lakes have large stretches of prime recreation shoreline, amounting to almost 50% of Graham Lake and 90% of Vandersteen Lake. High potential beach and swimming areas exist on all three lakes in the group.

The Peerless Lake group is not limited to these three lakes. Numerous other smaller lakes exist in the area, including Trout Lake, Goodfish, Equisetum, Long, Round, Gods, and Goosegrass Lakes. Many of these lakes have high capability shoreline.

The upland areas around Peerless Lake demonstrate high capability for moose production, a factor which enhances the potential of the area as a hunting and fishing centre.

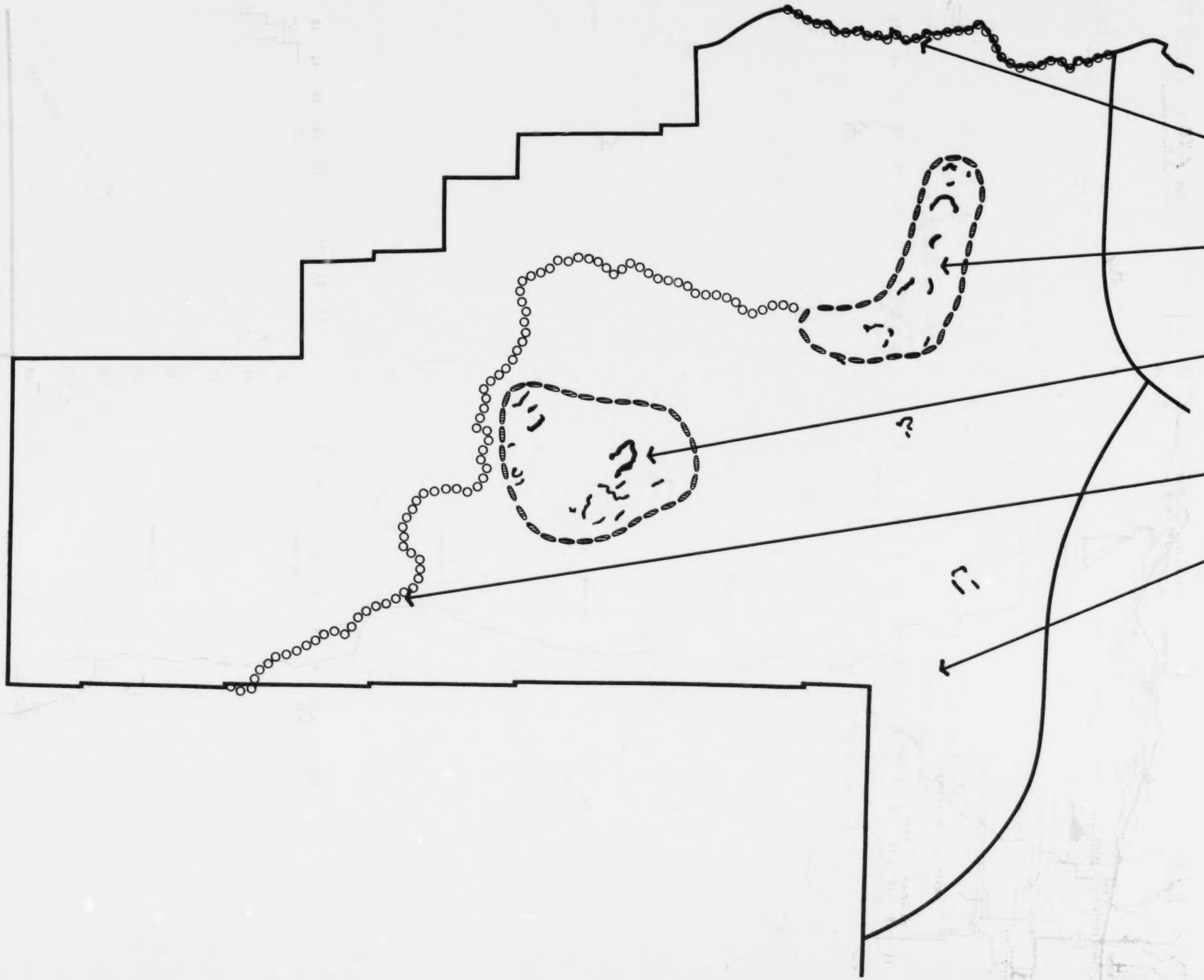
Fish resources in the Northern Lakes Subregion are uniformly of relatively high quality. The main sportfish are walleye, northern pike, and whitefish. Perch can be taken in some lakes (South Wabasca) as well.

Peerless Lake is the only Zone 14 Lake with high trout fishing capability with a natural lake trout population. Trout fishing occurs primarily in the spring just following the thaw. After this the trout move to deeper water, and fishermen move to Vandersteen, Graham, and Gods Lakes for better catches of walleye and northern pike.

A resource management plan for the Peerless Lakes area was completed in 1977 by Alberta Energy and Natural Resources. Essentially, the policies of the plan retain the wilderness image of the area, allowing only minor new camping areas and water access points.

Recreation capability related to river resources is high in two areas of the Subregion. The Wabasca River bisects the Subregion from North Wabasca Lake north and northwest, eventually entering the Peace River north of Zone 14. This river offers potential for wilderness boating (jetboat, raft, canoe) and access to hunting areas in the north. Few difficult reaches are encountered in the river, and relatively inexperienced boaters can negotiate these waters. However, expert wilderness camping skills are required due to the length of the reach through uninhabited land.

The Athabasca River along the east boundary of the Subregion provides a challenging whitewater experience, a wilderness tripping experience, and an historic waterway connecting the Towns of Athabasca and Fort McMurray. While the Pelican, Stony and Rapides du Joli Fou require intermediate paddling skills, the Grand Rapids require expert paddlers working in teams if they are to be run. Normal discretion would dictate to most adventurers that these rapids be portaged. The wilderness nature of the Athabasca River route requires expert camping skills and judicious attention to safety measures.



NORTHERN LAKES SUBREGION
Resource Capabilities for Recreation

LOW - MODERATE RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- EXCELLENT CANOEING / KAYAKING - DIFFICULT WHITEWATER
- DIFFICULT ACCESS BETWEEN CALLING RIVER AND FORT McMURRAY
- WILDERNESS SETTING

MODERATE RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- GOOD TO VERY GOOD FISHING (WALLEYE, NORTHERN PIKE AND PERCH)
- SOME PRIME BEACHES AND BACKSHORES
- DIFFICULT ACCESS BUT ACCESSIBLE BY CAR
- WILDERNESS SETTING

MODERATE RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- VERY GOOD FISHING (LAKE TROUT IN PEERLESS LAKE; WALLEYE, NORTHERN PIKE, PERCH COMMON IN OTHERS)
- PRIME BEACHES AND BACKSHORES
- PEERLESS LAKE DEEP, OTHERS HAVE SOME ALGAE
- DIFFICULT ACCESS, BUT ACCESSIBLE BY CAR
- WILDERNESS SETTING

LOW - MODERATE RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- GOOD CANOEING
- DIFFICULT ACCESS
- WILDERNESS SETTING

LOW RESOURCE CAPABILITY
- GOOD ICE FISHING (PERCH)
- PRIME AREA FOR WATERFOWL

LAND CAPABILITY FOR RECREATION

RECREATION CAPABILITY - INTENSIVE

OOOO RECREATION CAPABILITY - EXTENSIVE

N

SCALE 1:1 000 000 APPROXIMATE

epec consulting western ltd. **Figure III-9**

The capability for waterfowl production in the Subregion is relatively high in two areas. Utikuma Lake is a staging area for 250,000 to 500,000 ducks annually, with smaller numbers of geese as well. Muskwa Lake to the northeast of Utikuma also has high waterfowl capability (Figure III-9).

The Northern Lakes Subregion is an area of relatively high capability, clustered in two groups of lakes, for hunting, fishing, and for recreation. It is sparsely populated with resource based communities and the recreation potential of the area has seen little development to date.

The lack of good access to the high potential lakes of the Subregion is evidently the major reason the area has not been developed. Access to North and South Wabasca, and to Peerless Lakes exists by way of gravel roads, but the distance and the road conditions appear to have been an impediment to more significant development for the regional population.

History of the Midnight Twilight Tourist Zone

IV

HISTORY OF THE MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT TOURIST ZONE

1.0 PREHISTORY (to c. 1700)

Archaeological data provides evidence of the earliest sign of man in the region approximately 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. With the recession of the glaciers, man moved northward into the Boreal Mixedwood area north of the present City of St. Albert.

Small nomadic bands of Aboriginal peoples circulated through the region in search of the wildlife and vegetation available. Archaeological investigations have recorded evidence of campsites, quarries and hunting areas in the region.

2.0 NATIVE PEOPLES OF THE 18TH CENTURY

Native people were the earliest permanent inhabitants of the Midnight Twilight Zone. The various tribes used and protected areas of land as hunting ranges.

The Sarcee Indians, originally established north of the North Saskatchewan River, moved further south in their adaptation to the prairie life. To the north of them in the Lesser Slave Lake area lived the Beaver Indians (and possibly the Blackfoot and Slavey) of which the Sarcee are a division. With the advent of the Hudson's Bay Company in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the Woodland Cree Indians moved into central Alberta. These tribes were well-armed with European guns, and they met with little resistance from the Beaver, who moved further north into the Peace River region.

In the late 18th century, the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company began constructing forts in the region in order to further develop the lucrative fur trade. The native tribes were making the transition from subsistence hunters and food-gatherers to commercial hunters who traded their fur for guns, tools, and other goods. Inter-marriage of these tribes (particularly the Cree) with the white traders of the North West Company was common, and the offspring of these relationships, the Metis, adopted some of the cultural characteristics of the white man. In the early 20th century, reserve areas had been set aside for most Indians in the region.

3.0 THE FUR TRADE AND EXPLORATION

The earliest post in Alberta was established by Peter Pond near Lake Athabasca in 1778. The two main rival companies, the Hudson's Bay Company and North West Company built forts continuously further west of each other in order to obtain the trade from the natives. The amalgamation of the companies in 1821 eliminated competition in the fur trade, and the Hudson's Bay Company prospered in the region for many decades.

The earliest fort constructed in Zone 14 was Fort Augustus (and Edmonton House I), constructed by the North West Company in the summer of 1795. Fort Augustus was subsequently abandoned in favour of a new location at Edmonton.

Fort Assiniboine was constructed by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1823. Located at the junction of the Freeman and Athabasca Rivers, Fort Assiniboine served for many years as a trading post of the Company and as a jumping-off point for travellers on the Athabasca waterway. The fort was abandoned in approximately 1875.

David Thompson travelled throughout much of the region in the late 18th century on behalf of the North West Company. He established a trading post at Lac La Biche in 1798. He travelled overland through the region to Fort Augustus on the North Saskatchewan River, north of the present day community of Fort Saskatchewan. From Fort Augustus, Thompson travelled overland to the Pembina River near Westlock, down the Pembina and the Athabasca Rivers, and up the Lesser Slave River to Lesser Slave Lake. He was the first (recorded) white man to see the great Lesser Slave Lake. Thompson ordered a post constructed at the junction of the Lesser Slave and Athabasca Rivers in 1799. The post was completed by Francois Decoigne in that same year.

Angus Shaw is thought to have established a trading post on behalf of the North West Company at the west end of Lesser Slave Lake near the present community of Grouard (c. 1802).

Peter Fidler also explored the region while working for the Hudson's Bay Company. He built Greenwich House at Lac la Biche in 1799, and subsequently followed the Lac la Biche River to the Athabasca River and upstream to the Lesser Slave River. While Fidler encouraged the Hudson's Bay Governors to construct forts in the Lesser Slave Lake area, it was not until 1815 that Francois Decoigne (formerly of the North West Company) constructed Fort Waterloo near the present site of the Town of Slave Lake.

The fur trading companies were also responsible for the establishment of trails in the region, as it was necessary to have portage trails connecting major waterways. In later years, railroads replaced the water routes as the method of transporting goods to and from the North.

4.0 MISSIONARIES

Among the first recorded missionaries to see Zone 14 was the Reverend Robert Tyrrill Rundle, who travelled between Fort Edmonton and Lesser Slave Lake Settlement (later known as Grouard) first in 1840 and several times in the next decade. He was followed in the next year by the Reverend James Evans who travelled through the country in 1841, stopping at Lesser Slave Lake.

Father Albert Lacombe arrived at Edmonton in 1852. He is responsible for a few of the missions established throughout the region, including the Father Lacombe Church at St. Albert. Father Lacombe was also responsible for the establishment of the Grey Nuns in Alberta (c. 1860), probably the first educated white women to arrive in the Province.

Other early missionaries included George McDougall and his son John who established the Victoria Mission 129 kilometres (80 miles) downstream of Fort Edmonton on the North Saskatchewan River. Father Remas established the Mission of St. Bernard at Grouard in 1872. This Mission is now a designated historic site.

Missionaries brought not only religion to the region, but also permanent white settlement to the wilderness -- a factor which encouraged the migration of more settlers. They also fostered, in conjunction with the Hudson's Bay Company, the development of farm practices in the region, and established the community cultural support for permanent white settlement of many northern areas.

Many historic sites in Zone 14 are churches and missions which predate permanent settlement in the region. St. Bernard's Mission at Grouard, St. John Baptiste Mission at Falher, and the Father Lacombe Church at St. Albert are historic sites which symbolize the first days of white settlement.

LESSER SLAVE LAKE / A PIONEER STORE 1890

GROUARD MAIN STREET PRE 1913

SAWRIDGE / CABLE FERRY WITH YORK BOAT IN RIGHT FOREGROUND 1912

ST. ALBERT MAIN STREET LOOKING NORTH. APPROX. 1900

ATHABASCA LANDING MAIN STREET DECEMBER 1912

EARLY COMMUNITIES LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Photographs courtesy of Provincial Archives of Alberta

Missionaries and their churches arrived in some communities after white settlement had begun. In these instances the church became the focal point of the community. The historic sites of St. Mary's Church at Waugh and St. Benoit Church at Pickardville are examples of this pattern of settlement.

5.0 STEAMBOAT NAVIGATION

In the last decades of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century, steam powered paddlewheelers were used to provide river transportation on the major waterways in Western Canada. These large river craft were built by the Hudson's Bay Company, or by businessmen such as "Peace River" Jim Cornwall of the Northern Transportation Company.

The Athabasca River was navigable by paddlewheelers from Mirror Landing at the Lesser Slave River to the Grand Rapids. Goods and people were transported by wagon and sled along the Athabasca Landing Trail from Edmonton to Athabasca Landing, and from that point they travelled north and west by paddlewheeler.

Until 1883, when the first boilers were transported to Athabasca Landing by cart along the Landing Trail, the Athabasca River and Lesser Slave Lake were navigated by York boat, scow, and Sturgeon-head boat. Goods were transported to Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan and to the Peace River country via Lesser Slave Lake through Athabasca Landing.

From 1888, steam driven paddlewheelers plied the Athabasca River from Athabasca Landing northeast to the Grand Rapids and northwest to Lesser Slave Lake. "The Athabasca", launched in 1888, ran the Athabasca River. Passengers to Fort McMurray boarded "The Midnight Sun" (launched in 1904, 36.6m by 7.3m (120 ft. by 24 ft.); 35 staterooms) for the trip to the Grand Rapids, portaged the rapids, and boarded "The Grahame" (launched in 1883, 41m by 8.5m (135 ft. by 28 ft.); 30 staterooms) to Fort McMurray.

OUTFITTING FOR THE KLONDIKE BY PACK HORSE. 1898

OUTFITTING FOR THE KLONDIKE BY DOG TEAM. FEBRUARY 1898

TRADERS RUNNING THE RAPIDS ON SECOND PORTAGE ON THE SLAVE RIVER. APPROX. 1890s

STEAMBOAT "THE BOSTON" 1898

PADDLE STEAMER "ATHABASCA RIVER" BUILT AT ATHABASCA LANDING. 1912

EARLY TRANSPORTATION LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Photographs courtesy of Provincial Archives of Alberta

The "S.S. Northern Light", a sidewheeler (launched in 1906, 30.5m by 8.0m (100 ft. by 26 ft.); 35 staterooms) plied the waters of Lesser Slave Lake.

The era of the paddlewheeler, a major carrier of passengers in the region, ended with the construction of the Edmonton, Dunvegan, and British Columbia Railway to Peace River Crossing in 1916.

6.0 TRAILS AND SETTLEMENT

A number of overland routes existed in the region for the purpose of transporting people and trade goods both through the area and to various points within it.

6.1 THE FORT ASSINIBOINE TRAIL

Following construction of Fort Assiniboine in 1823, a trail was cut (1824-25) on the orders of George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company, between Edmonton House and Fort Assiniboine. This trail was heavily used for the transportation of goods and people to the north and to the Pacific between 1825 and 1875. Its use was revived in 1897-98 by people heading north to the Klondike Gold Rush.

This was a trail that went from the cluster of buildings known as Edmonton, which was located at Jasper Avenue and 100th street, west to the Roman Catholic settlement near the present Legislative Buildings and north, winding its way through dense forest to St. Albert. Established in 1861 by Father Lacombe as a large mission, many missionaries moved out from St. Albert as they travelled through the region. For many years before the turn of the century, St. Albert was larger than Edmonton, having many houses and some shops to support its mobile population.

A portion of the Fort Assiniboine Trail has been carefully identified by members of the Historical Society of Alberta, who undertook the project as a field trip in 1977. The trail passed through St. Albert, across a height of land northwest to the Pembina River, crossing the river at Belvedere. It then turned north and passed east of present day Barrhead where it made its way north to Fort Assiniboine. The location of the trail would vary according to season and weather. During the winter, it would cross frozen lakes and rivers, whereas during the summer it would pass along the heights of land. A number of stopping places had been established along this trail at Ray, Riviere Qui Barre, Sion, Belvedere, Bloomsbury and Fort Assiniboine.

The most southerly portion of the trail, from Edmonton to St. Albert, came to be known in later years as the St. Albert Trail. From St. Albert a trail ran north through Morinville, Legal, and Vimy to a point near the present community of Clyde. This trail was known as the Lac la Biche Trail.

6.2 ATHABASCA LANDING TRAIL

Used by Indians years before the arrival of white traders, this trail was one of the most significant trails in northern Alberta.

By 1875 the Hudson's Bay Company had made the trail marginally passable between Fort Edmonton and the depot at the "elbow" of the Athabasca River.

The Hudson's Bay Company cut a much improved trail and constructed bridges and scows for stream crossings in 1883. With the construction of the railway to Calgary in that same year, a proliferation of trade goods were transported north via the Calgary and Edmonton Trail and then the Athabasca Landing Trail to the northern water routes.

The development of the railway to the north in 1912 signalled the decline in use of the trail, although for many years following, wagons continued to use it.

This trail has been carefully identified by the Trail North Foundation which is in the process of re-establishing portions of it for tourist and recreational use. They have succeeded in having an historical site, St. Mary's Church in Waugh, designated by Alberta Culture and have proposed a number of interpretive centres, museums (including a Northern Transportation Museum at Athabasca), trails and historic sites for development.

6.3 THE CHALMERS TRAIL

The Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98 created the need for an overland route between Fort Assiniboine and Lesser Slave Lake Settlement. A trail between these two points was constructed in 1897-98 as the gold seekers attempted to travel the route. It was at best marginally passable, and it fell from use following the gold rush. From Fort Assiniboine the trail ran north along the Athabasca River to Holmes Crossing. From this point it struck out in a northwesterly direction to the community of Grouard.

6.4 THE GROUARD OR PEACE TRAIL

Alexander Mackenzie in his map of 1892, shows the Grouard Trail as an ancient Cree war road, connecting Peace River Crossing and Grouard. This route was used by travellers to the Pacific and to the gold rush until the railway was constructed in 1916. During this period, it was thought to be one of the worst trails in the world, and the carcasses of livestock were a common sight in the muskeg and bogs along the route.

The Grouard or Peace Trail can be described more generally to be the route between Athabasca Landing and Peace River Crossing. Travellers came by boat from Athabasca Landing to Mirror Landing on the Lesser Slave River. From this point they travelled overland to Sawridge, where most boarded a second paddlewheeler for the lake crossing to Grouard. Some, however, travelled overland along either the north or south shore of Lesser Slave Lake. From Grouard, travellers went overland by wagon to Peace River Crossing.

7.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL SITES

The Midnight Twilight Zone has no archaeological sites developed as interpretive centres to date. A number of sites within the study area have been identified for possible designation as either Provincial or Registered Historic Resources.

7.1 ALOOK SITE -- NORTH WABASCA LAKE

This archaeological site of research interest is situated on Indian Reserve land. This is an ancient buried campsite of archaeological rather than tourist significance.

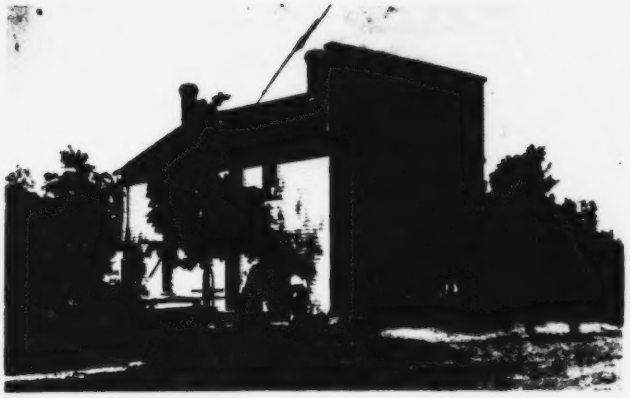
7.2 CALLING LAKE SITE

These are a series of sites that have proven very productive and are sensitive to development. The Calling Lake site is a fishing and hunting camp which is not of significance for tourism.

7.3 HILLIARD'S BAY PROVINCIAL PARK (NEAR GROUARD)

Archaeologically significant as a camping and fishing area, this site is a one hour walk from the Provincial Campground. Artifacts of significance to tourism have not as yet been unearthed.

SMITH PORTAGE HALFWAY HOUSE 1925



FORT SASKATCHEWAN HALFWAY HOUSE BETWEEN EDMONTON AND FORT SASKATCHEWAN (Popular Rest Stop) APPROX. 1900

GROUARD / ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH AND OLD MISSION HOUSE 1914

ST. ALBERT HOTEL 1902

ST. ALBERT / BISHOP'S PALACE 1906

EARLY ARCHITECTURE LATE 19TH CENTURY

Photographs courtesy of Provincial Archives of Alberta

7.4 GIFT LAKE

There are some archaeological sites, but they are quite small, and have been heavily disturbed. No interpretive value is indicated.

7.5 HIGH PRAIRIE SITE

This site has one of the earliest artifacts unearthed -- a stone tool that is estimated to be 12,000 years old. This ancient macro blade was unearthed by a farmer, and is presently housed in the High Prairie Museum. The site itself is in a farmer's field and is of no interpretive value.

Throughout the region there are more than 470 identified sites that were campsites of early Indians, tipi rings, fur trading posts or homesteads.

There are no palaeontological sites in the region that have been identified to date.

8.0 HISTORIC SITES

There are presently fourteen provincially designated historic sites in the Midnight Twilight Zone. Currently, inventory surveys are being conducted by the Historic Sites Service of the Historical Resources Division of Alberta Culture in the following communities: St. Albert, Colinton, Athabasca, Tawatinaw, Meanook, Perryvale, Rochester, Boyle, Gibbons, Pickardville, Vimy, Morinville and Grouard. Following is a list of the designated historic sites as well as one, the Poundmaker Lodge near St. Albert, which has not yet been officially designated (although it is imminent). An additional site that is being considered, the Battenburg townsite (which contained Mrs. Snow's stopping place), has been included.

8.1 GROUARD -- ST. BERNARD'S ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION

This church was built in 1902 by Brother August Dumas of the Oblate order when Grouard was known as Lesser Slave Lake Settlement. It was designed to be Bishop Grouard's Cathedral, and he designed the interior, painting the vault (since redone) and the altar mural (extant). It was built to replace two small shacks, acquired in 1872 at the Settlement. Bishop Grouard is among four Bishops buried in the cemetery, north of the church. The church is large and similar in construction to Roman Catholic mission churches built elsewhere in the Province at the same time.

8.2 FALHER -- ST. JEAN BAPTISTE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Located four kilometres southeast of Falher, this log structure was built in 1914 by Brother August Dumas, who had built the St. Bernard's Mission at Grouard. It served as a church from only 1914 to 1919, after which it was a private residence until 1950. The building is unusual as it is a two-storey structure with a residence for the priest on the top floor.

8.3 MCLENNAN NORTHERN RAILWAY STATION

Not designated.

8.4 ATHABASCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

This is a two-storey brick school built in 1913 in anticipation of the growth of Athabasca. Used as a school until the 1950's, it is now used as a community meeting hall.

8.5 ATHABASCA LANDING TRAIL (AT CONFLUENCE OF ATHABASCA AND TAWATINAW RIVERS)

Following a trail used by Indians, Chief Factor Hardisty of the Hudson's Bay Company caused the trail to be improved into a cart trail in 1875. It became the major trail between Edmonton and Athabasca, the latter point being the starting place for people going to Lesser Slave Lake Settlement, Peace River or Fort McMurray. Originally a transportation route for goods, it served travellers to the gold rush of 1897-98, and pioneers settling the Peace River Country. In 1912, the Canadian Northern Railway extended a line to Athabasca and the trail was no longer heavily used. This site is the location of a Hudson's Bay Company's warehouse built in 1877.

8.6 MORINVILLE -- ST. JEAN BAPTISTE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND RECTORY

A frame structure erected in 1907, with a brick veneer added in 1929, this church was built by French pioneers in the area. The rectory was first built of logs in 1895. This was attached to a second presbytery built in 1912. It is a highly ornate and elaborate structure with murals on the walls, the ceiling, and surrounding the altar.

8.7 MORINVILLE -- NOTRE DAME CONVENT

This Roman Catholic Convent was built in 1909 and is an excellent example of French-Canadian architecture. Owned by the Order of Les Filles de Jesus, it served as a school and residence for the nuns and some students until 1972. It continued to function as a day school until 1977 under the auspices of the local school district.

8.8 WAUGH -- ST. MARY'S CHURCH

This church was built in 1905 by Eastern European homesteaders. It was the only Ukrainian Catholic church between Edmonton and Athabasca Landing until 1910. It served the agricultural community until 1940 when a larger building was constructed. The church is a wooden one-storey frame structure that served a large Ukrainian community. It is planned to develop the site into a pioneer museum.

8.9 PICKARDVILLE -- ST. BENOIT CHURCH

Designed by Father Henri Garnier and built in 1929, St. Benoit is a landmark in Pickardville. Dominated by a 115 foot tall steeple, the large white structure attracts the largest congregation in the region and has been the focal point for the town and region for many years.

8.10 LAC LA NONNE -- ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

A small frame church, set on a heavily wooded parcel of land, St. Peter's was built by volunteers under the leadership of layman J. B. Bickersteth in 1911. It is a typical example of early pioneer churches of Protestant faiths, both in plan and in scale.

8.11 ST. ALBERT -- POUNDMAKER LODGE (PENDING DESIGNATION)

The three-storey structure was a former Indian Residential School built in Jacobethan style. It sits in a rural setting overlooking the Sturgeon River Valley. It was built to house Indian students in the belief that they could be integrated into white society through learning agricultural and educational skills in a boarding school environment. It is now a facility of the Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission.

8.12 ST. ALBERT -- BISHOP'S PALACE

Originally constructed to be a convent for the Grey Nuns at St. Albert Mission in 1882-87, it became, upon completion, the Bishop's Palace under Bishop Grandin. In 1912, the Episcopal See was transferred to Edmonton and until 1974 it served as a home for retired priests. Its architecture is typical of the French-Canadian convent style.

8.13 ST. ALBERT -- FATHER LACOMBE CHURCH (ALSO SEE MUSEUMS)

The church is the oldest known standing building in Alberta. It was built in 1861 by Father Lacombe in the Post-On-Sill construction method. Used as a church until 1870, it has also served as a sacristy, store house, granary and museum (1929). It has been enclosed by a brick shell which houses the Lacombe Museum.

8.14 STURGEON RIVER MILL OR LE MOULIN DE ST. CHRISTOPHE (SOUTH OF BON ACCORD)

This is the site of one of the earliest saw and grist mills in Alberta, used by a large surrounding region. It was conceived by the St. Albert Mission in 1878 and constructed by the Lamoureux brothers. A post office and school were also constructed on the site. All but a dam and flume were destroyed by fire in 1889. It was rebuilt but finally dismantled in 1900. It is now used for agricultural purposes.

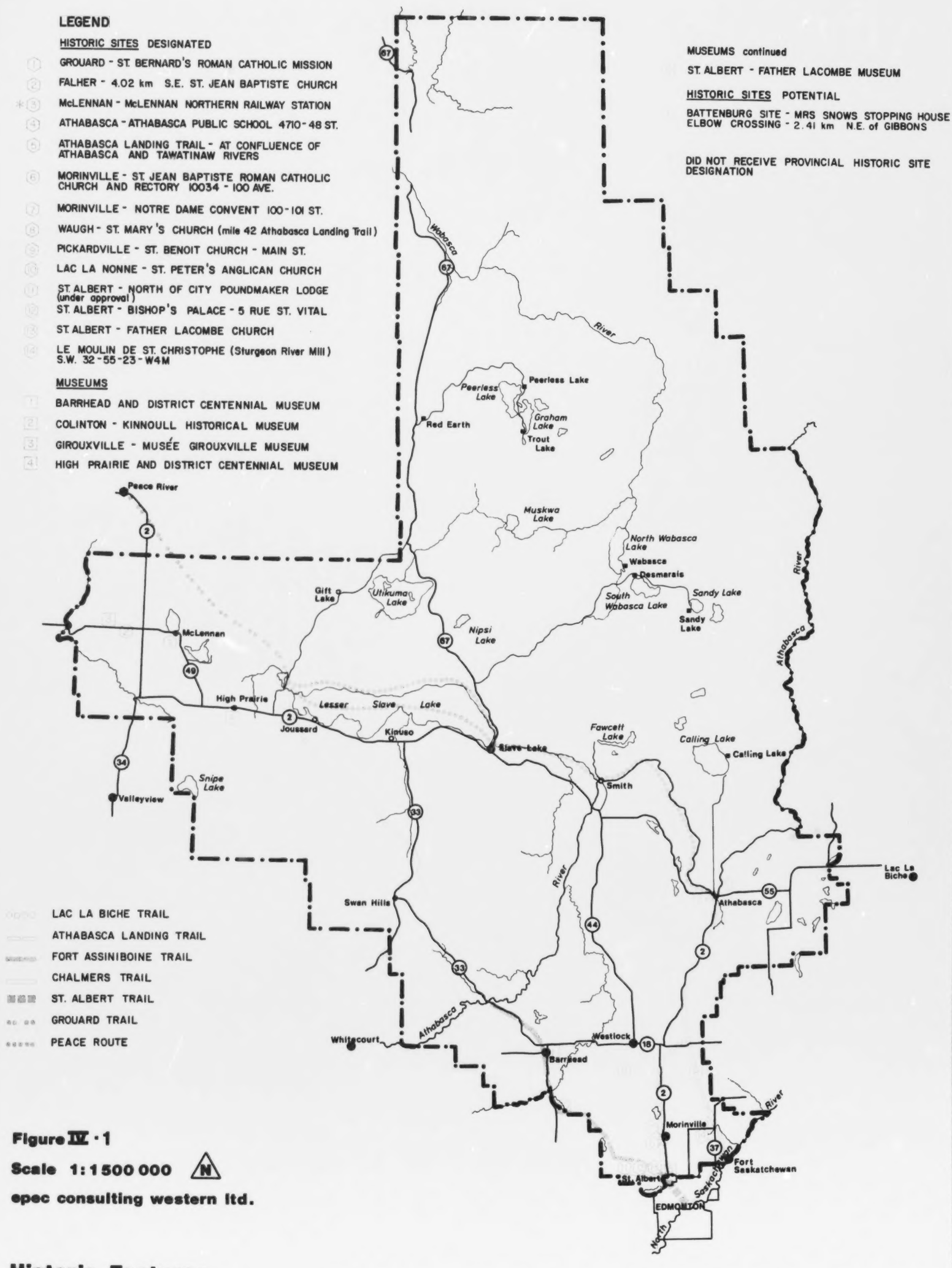

LEGEND
HISTORIC SITES DESIGNATED
1 GROUARD - ST. BERNARD'S ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION
2 FALHER - 4.02 km S.E. ST. JEAN BAPTISTE CHURCH
*3 McLENNAN - McLENNAN NORTHERN RAILWAY STATION
4 ATHABASCA - ATHABASCA PUBLIC SCHOOL 4710 - 48 ST.
5 ATHABASCA LANDING TRAIL - AT CONFLUENCE OF ATHABASCA AND TAWATINAW RIVERS
6 MORINVILLE - ST. JEAN BAPTISTE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND RECTORY 10034 - 100 AVE.
7 MORINVILLE - NOTRE DAME CONVENT 100 - 101 ST.
8 WAUGH - ST. MARY'S CHURCH (mile 42 Athabasca Landing Trail)
9 PICKARDVILLE - ST. BENOIT CHURCH - MAIN ST.
10 LAC LA NONNE - ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
11 ST. ALBERT - NORTH OF CITY POUNDMAKER LODGE (under approval)
12 ST. ALBERT - BISHOP'S PALACE - 5 RUE ST. VITAL
13 ST. ALBERT - FATHER LACOMBE CHURCH
14 LE MOULIN DE ST. CHRISTOPHE (Sturgeon River Mill) S.W. 32 - 55 - 23 - W4M
MUSEUMS
1 BARRHEAD AND DISTRICT CENTENNIAL MUSEUM
2 COLINTON - KINNOULL HISTORICAL MUSEUM
3 GIROUXVILLE - MUSÉE GIROUXVILLE MUSEUM
4 HIGH PRAIRIE AND DISTRICT CENTENNIAL MUSEUM
MUSEUMS continued
ST. ALBERT - FATHER LACOMBE MUSEUM
HISTORIC SITES POTENTIAL
BATTENBURG SITE - MRS SNOWS STOPPING HOUSE
ELBOW CROSSING - 2.41 km N.E. of GIBBONS
DID NOT RECEIVE PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION
LAC LA BICHE TRAIL
ATHABASCA LANDING TRAIL
FORT ASSINIBOINE TRAIL
CHALMERS TRAIL
ST. ALBERT TRAIL
GROUARD TRAIL
PEACE ROUTE
Peace River
McLennan
High Prairie
Joussard
Lesser Slave Lake
Kinuso
Slave Lake
Valleyview
Snipe Lake
Gift Lake
Utikuma Lake
Nipsi Lake
Muskwa Lake
Peerless Lake
Red Earth
Graham Lake
Trout Lake
Wabasca
Desmarais
North Wabasca Lake
South Wabasca Lake
Sandy Lake
Fawcett Lake
Calling Lake
Smith
Swan Hills
Whitecourt
Athabasca
Lac La Biche
Westlock
Barrhead
Morinville
St. Albert
Fort Saskatchewan
EDMONTON
Wabasca River
Athabasca River
North Saskatchewan River

Figure IV - 1

Scale 1:1500 000 N

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Historic Features of Zone 14

8.15 BATTENBURG SITE -- MRS. SNOW'S STOPPING PLACE (POTENTIAL SITE FOR PROVINCIAL DESIGNATION)

This site is largely farmland now. Included in the site are:

- The original and subsequently re-constructed stopping-houses operated by Joseph McLean and Mrs. Snow;
- Bridge piers constructed in 1889-90;
- A CNR trestle dating to 1917;
- Ruts from the Athabasca Trail;
- Remains of the "Town" of Battenburg.

The site was on the original trail to the north. During the early decades of the twentieth century, Mrs. Snow's was one of the well known stopping-houses along the Athabasca Landing Trail. No development has been started as yet, although extant structures are in fair to good condition.

9.0 MUSEUMS

There are several museums presently operating in the region. They all contain local historical collections with concentration on artifacts of early settlement and missionary efforts. Two of the museums, the Father Lacombe Museum in St. Albert and the Musee Girouxville (Museum) in Girouxville contain extensive collections of early church and missionary history in the region. It is hoped to establish a museum at Athabasca which will contain items of a settlement period that spans the time from the mid-1880s to the building of the railroad to Athabasca in 1912. This is being promoted by the Trail North Foundation.

9.1 BARRHEAD AND DISTRICT CENTENNIAL MUSEUM (CENTENNIAL PROJECT)

Address:	P.O. Box 626, Barrhead, Alberta, T0G 0E0
Phone:	674-2074
Location:	Sports grounds, Highway 33
Collection:	Local history -- artifacts, archives
Operating Hours:	May to October, Saturday and Sunday, 1 - 6 p.m. (free)
Governing Authority:	Non-profit organization
Contact:	William Sutherland, Curator

9.2 COLINTON -- KINNOULL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Address:	Colinton, Alberta
Collection:	Local history -- artifacts
Admission:	June to September, Sunday and Monday afternoon (free)
Governing Authority:	Private
Contact:	Mildred Hay, Manager

9.3 GIROUXVILLE -- MUSEE GIROUXVILLE (MUSEUM)

Address:	C.P. 129, Girouxville, Alberta, T0H 1S0
Phone:	323-4252
Collection:	Historical collection and archives. Pioneers, missionaries, Indians of Riviere-de-la-paix, natural history, agriculture, petroleum exploration, reconstructed mission chapel, trapper's hut
Admission:	Monday 9 - 5 p.m. (free)
Governing Authority:	Oblate Fathers
Contact:	Clement Desrochers, Director

9.4 HIGH PRAIRIE AND DISTRICT CENTENNIAL MUSEUM

Address:	P.O. Box 629, High Prairie, Alberta, T0G 1E0
Phone:	523-3456; 523-4197
Collection:	Indian, pioneer and archival material from Ghost Town of Grouard. Geological specimens
Admission:	Monday to Saturday (free)
Governing Authority:	Non-profit
Contact:	Fern Fevang, Secretary

9.5 ST. ALBERT -- FATHER LACOMBE MUSEUM

Address:	P.O. Box 98, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 1N2
Phone:	459-8601; 458-9199
Location:	7 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert
Collection:	Artifacts of early St. Albert; Father Lacombe, Bishop Grandin and other Oblate missionaries, church furnishings, tools, paintings
Admission:	May 15 to June 30, Wednesday to Sunday, 1 - 8 p.m., July 1, Labour Day, daily 9 - 9 (free; donations)
Governing Authority:	Non-profit organization
Contact:	Arlene Borgstede, Director
Other:	Tours for special groups; oral interview; historical research; annual historical tour; quarterly newsletter

9.6 ALBERTA PIONEER RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

Address:	Box 6102, Station C, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K5
Location:	South of Namao
Collection:	Operating railway locomotives, cars, and related equipment
Admission:	Holidays, noon to 6 p.m. (free)

9.7 TRIANGLE THRESHERMEN'S AND HARVESTER'S CLUB

Address:	Pioneer Threshermen's Association, Box 759, High Prairie, Alberta
Location:	9 km west of High Prairie at Triangle
Governing Authority:	Private Club
Collection:	Agricultural equipment
Admission:	Operating times are not set.

This completes the natural and historic resource inventory and assessment component of this report. The following chapters outline other community and tourism resources and infrastructures, which exist in the Zone and which play an integral part in the overall Tourism Development Potential for the Midnight Twilight Zone.

V

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

During the course of this study, the consultants visited every area in Zone 14 accessible by automobile, as well as participating in an extensive "fly-around" tour of the northern and eastern areas of the Zone which are inaccessible by automobile. This extensive personal visitation was prompted by three major objectives:

1. Update the inventory of community and recreation resources.

2. Interview local representatives with regard to levels of interest and activity in Tourism and Recreation.

3. Viewing the entire Zone for its natural and man-made features.

The individuals contacted for interviews represented a wide range of citizens including Town Managers, Town Councillors, Chamber of Commerce Representatives, Midnight Twilight Zone Directors, recreation club representatives, tourist facility operators, tourist service operators, and retail store owners. A complete listing of interviewees appears in Appendix E.

Almost all the interviews were pre-arranged by telephone. The consultants met with some representatives individually, while others were met in groups. The method of interview was partially dependent on community size, interest, and organization. It was important during all the interviews to attempt to separate personal comments from the representative comments. Everyone's comments were important, but there was always mix of subject knowledge, factual statements and opinion. Therefore, to

enable the analysis of the information after all the data was received, an interview guideline was developed which was reviewed and accepted by the Steering Committee. The guideline contained questions for updating the resource inventories, assessing the present levels and type of promotion, and documenting recent and future planning efforts in tourism. As well, interviewees were able to express their opinions of the Zone's needs, the community's feelings towards tourism, the level of Government involvement from the local and provincial levels, and a measure of the importance of tourism to their local economy. Also, it gave interviewees an opportunity to list the tourist attractions as they saw them, either developed or with potential for development. The interviewees were further encouraged to add any other comments they felt worthwhile.

All the major highways in the Zone were travelled. Unfortunately, the Northern half of the Zone which has been called the Northern Lakes Subregion is accessible on land by one gravel road, Highway 67. This area was not visited by vehicle due to time constraints, but the Steering Committee and Study Team were able to view its macro physiographic features by plane. The afternoon flight and accompanying meetings with the Committee were helpful in assessing the Zone's features and areas of potential.

As a result of the visits, listings of Events and Attractions, Accommodations and Facilities have been provided to Travel Alberta to augment current publications where appropriate. Appendices A and B contain the listings as provided to Travel Alberta. Additionally, the first-hand review of each area in the Zone provided valuable input to the physiographic review conducted concurrently, in terms of defining areas with High Tourism Potential. An extensive photographic record of the visits has also been compiled, and these photos form an integral part of the recommendations for Tourism Development in high potential areas.

1.0 COMMUNITY RESOURCES

On the following pages, the community resources have been itemized for each of the towns or cities visited. These resource listings are based on existing community profiles, augmented by the actual inspection of each of the sites. On the following pages, the community resources have been itemized for each of the cities, towns, hamlets and villages. These resource listings are based on the most current community profile information existing and available, augmented by the actual inspection of each of the sites. (A complete listing of the communities which comprise Zone 14 is contained in Appendix I.)

The resource information contained in the following pages includes primary infrastructural data, which pertains to transportation access, retail sector, hospital services, recreation amenities, hotel/motel facilities, restaurants, churches, and population statistics. Generally speaking, these community resources are those services, facilities and amenities which form the base services in each community. In the context of tourism, these base services alone would not be the motivating factor in attracting visitors, but would be instrumental to ensuring the visitors were well "taken care of" when they came to the various communities. In other reports these resources have been called the "servicors" as opposed to those natural and man-made attractions, which actually motivate people to visit an area, which have been called "attractors".

The following pages illustrate the various service oriented and infrastructural resources of the towns visited, broken out by the four subregions as follows:

- Edmonton Plains;
- Slave Lake;
- Swan Hills;
- Northern Lakes.

EDMONTON PLAINS SUBREGION
COMMUNITY PROFILE

Legend

N/A = Not Available
- = No
L = Length

Location	Population	Census	Hotel/ Motels	Units	Churches	Restaurants	Service Stations	Highways	Airports	Hospital Beds	Swimming Pools	Arenas	Tennis	Golf	Retail Outlets
St. Albert	31,180	Jun '81	2	95	9	9	11	2	Villeneuve	100	In	2	7	1 (18)	275
Barrhead	3,528	Sep '81	6	172	7	9	6	18, 33	L: 1064 M	83	In	1	1	1 (9)	71
Morinville	4,584	Sep '81	2	47	3	5	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	1 (18)	32
Westlock	5,153	Sep '81	5	164	7	10	6	2, 18, 44	L: 912 M	80	Out	1	1	1 (9)	82
Athabasca	1,846	Sep '81	5	150	9	5	2	2, 55	L: 912 M	30	In	1	1	1	58
Bon Accord	1,423	1982	1	15	-	1	1	28	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Gibbons	1,785	1980	1	12	3	2	2	28, 37	-	-	-	1	1	-	30
Legal	1,032	N/A	1	11	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	24
Boyle	644	N/A	2	53	1	3	3	63	-	30	-	1	-	-	22
Clyde	364	N/A	1	12	3	2	2	2, 18	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Smith	325	N/A	1	10	4	1	1	2A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Alcomdale	50	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	794	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Atmore	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	55, 63	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Big Coulee	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	813	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Bloomsbury	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Busby	73	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	651, 794	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Calahoo	142	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	635	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Calling Lake	330	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	813	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Camp Creek	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Chisholm	60	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Colinton	126	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	2, 663	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Coronado	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Dapp	N/A	N/A	1	-	1	-	-	44, 661	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Donatville	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	55, 663	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Ellscott	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Fawcett	129	N/A	1	-	-	2	2	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Fawcett Lake	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	2A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Flatbush	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Fort Assiniboine	215	N/A	2	26	-	1	2	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Freedom	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Grassland	61	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

Location	Population	Census	Hotel/ Motels	Units	Churches	Restaurants	Service Stations	Highways	Airports	Hospital Beds	Swimming Pools	Arenas	Tennis	Golf	Retail Outlets
Highridge	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	777	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Hondo	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	2A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Island Lake	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Jarvie	75	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Lac La Nonne	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Lone Pine	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	658	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Manola	52	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	18, 654	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Meadowview	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	764	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Meanook	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Mearns	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	794	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Mewatha Beach	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	63, 663	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Namao	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Neerlandia	61	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	769	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Nestow	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Perryvale	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Pibroch	88	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Pickardville	120	N/A	-	-	1	-	-	794	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Riviere Qui Barre	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	794	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Rochester	95	Jun '79	1	-	-	1	1	2, 661	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Rossington	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Sandy Beach	65	N/A	-	-	-	-	1	642	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Shoal Creek	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	776	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Sunset Beach	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	2, 812	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Tawatinaw	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Tiger Lily	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	763	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Vega	125	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	661, 769	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Villeneuve	N/A	N/A	-	-	1	-	-	794	L: 975 M	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Vimy	116	N/A	1	5	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Waugh	N/A	N/A	-	-	1	-	-	654	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

SLAVE LAKE SUBREGION
COMMUNITY PROFILE

Location	Population	Census	Hotel/ Motels	Units	Churches	Restaurants	Service Stations	Highways	Airports	Hospital Beds	Swimming Pools	Arenas	Tennis	Golf	Retail Outlets
Slave Lake	4,328	N/A	5	334	3	6	7	2, 67	L: 1520 M	34	-	1	1	1 (9)	64
Falher	1,204	Sep '81	2	42	2	3	3	49	Donnelly	-	Out	1	1	-	42
High Prairie	2,414	N/A	5	72	7	8	7	2	L: 1067 M	70	Out	1	1	1 (9)	68
McLennan	1,212	Sep '81	1	17	1	-	-	49	Donnelly	63	-	1	1	1 (9)	11
Donnelly	340	Jun '79	1	16	-	2	2	2, 49	L: 912 M	-	-	1	-	-	6
Faust	386	Jun '79	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Girouxville	315	Sep '81	1	15	-	-	-	49	Donnelly	-	-	-	1	1 (9)	8
Joussard	243	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Kinuso	305	Jun '79	1	-	-	-	-	2, 33	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Canyon Creek	122	Jun '79	1	10	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Driftpile	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Guy	56	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Grouard	345	Jun '79	-	-	1	-	-	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Kathleen	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Jean Cote	59	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	744	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Sunset House	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	747	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Widewater	325	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

NORTHERN LAKES SUBREGION
COMMUNITY PROFILE

Location	Population	Census	Hotel/ Motels	Units	Churches	Restaurants	Service Stations	Highways	Airports	Hospital Beds	Swimming Pools	Arenas	Tennis	Golf	Retail Outlets
Gift Lake	514	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	750	Turf	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Atikameg	50	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Chipewyan Lake	180	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	Winter	Turf	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Loon Lake	325	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	67, 686	Red Earth	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Peerless Lake	150	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	686	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Pelican Portage	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Red Earth Creek	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	67	Turf	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Sandy Lake	160	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	754	Turf	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Trout Lake	150	Jun '79	-	-	-	-	-	686	Turf	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Wabasca-Desmarais	1,070	Jun '79	-	-	2	-	2	754	Gravel	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

SWAN HILLS SUBREGION
COMMUNITY PROFILE

Location	Population	Census	Hotel/ Motels	Units	Churches	Restaurants	Service Stations	Highways	Airports	Hospital Beds	Swimming Pools	Arenas	Tennis	Golf	Retail Outlets
Swan Hills	2,553	Jun '79	4	131	4	3	2	32, 33	Yes/Private	-	In	1	-	-	44

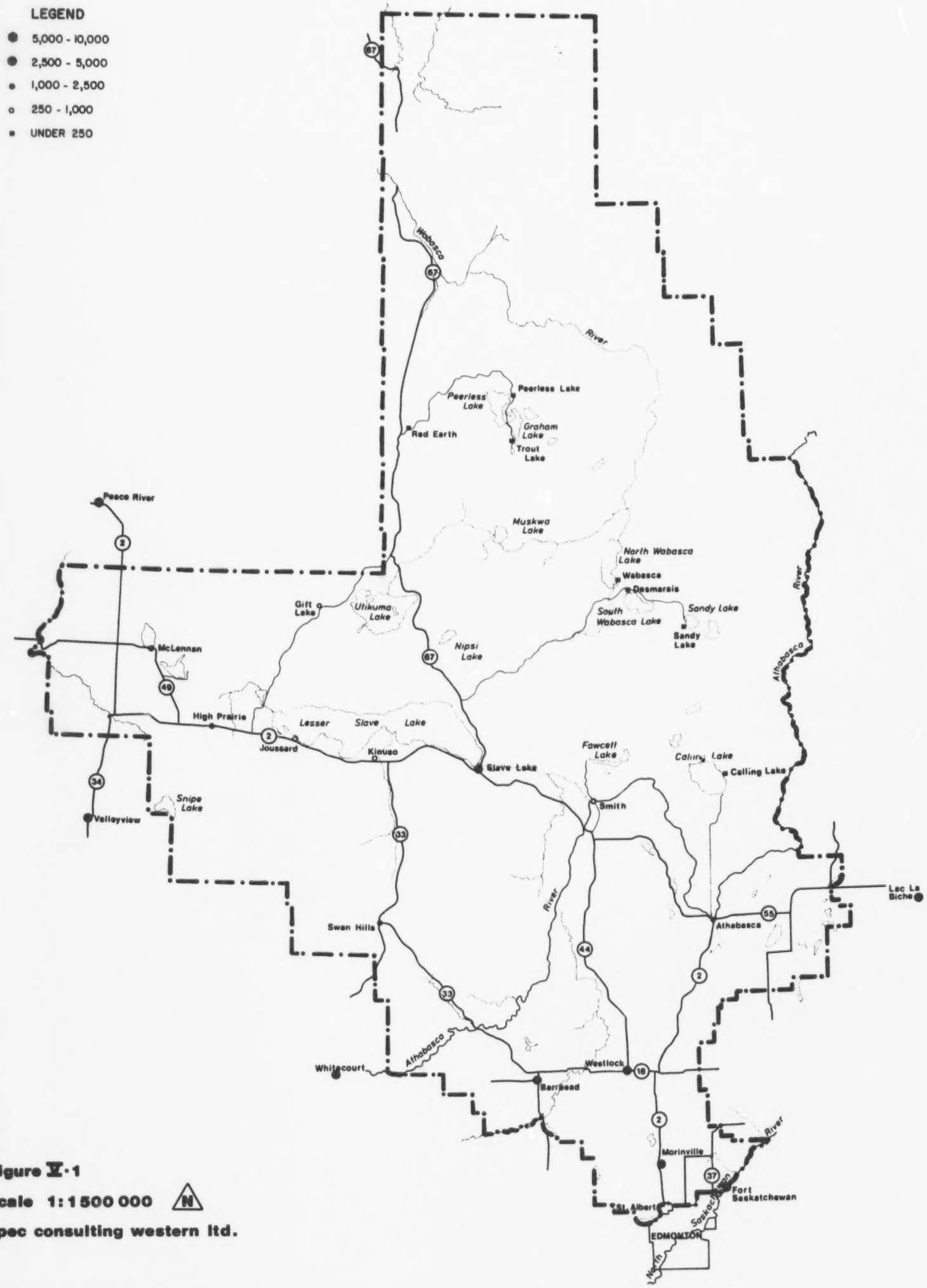

Figure V-1

Scale 1:1 500 000 N

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Communities of Zone 14 by Population Size

Community Tourism Resources

VI

COMMUNITY TOURISM RESOURCES

1.0 TOURISM RESOURCES

In this section, a profile of Tourism Resources has been prepared in greater detail for each of the areas visited. These resources are presented in each of the four subregions identified earlier, specifically:

- Edmonton Plains;
- Slave Lake;
- Swan Hills;
- Northern Lakes.

Each of these subregions have been reviewed primarily in the context of Provincial Parks and Campgrounds, Municipal/County Parks and Campgrounds, and Privately Owned Campgrounds. Also, an overview of "Other Tourism Resources" has been developed which covers fly-in fishing, outfitting-guiding, river outfitting, and guest ranches/farm vacations in the Zone. The tourism resources outlined in this section must be considered in the context of the natural, historic and archaeological resources itemized in detail in the previous chapters of this report. Only by considering the natural and the man made resources will a complete picture of total tourism resources (attractors) for the Zone emerge.

In the following pages (Tables VI-1 through VI-4) are provided detailed campground and parks information for the Zone. This data has been presented in four segments for each subregion. These four segments are:

Provincial Parks

For each Provincial Park, a listing of "standard" or common services is provided, then for each location, a further breakdown of Park services and facilities is provided, showing how one Park differs from another.

Provincial Campgrounds

As in the case for Parks, standard or common services are listed, followed by a breakdown of location and detailed services and amenities.

Within the Provincial Campgrounds segment, there is a column which indicates "Operator", since historically in Alberta, there have been three departments providing various campground facilities in this Zone -- Alberta Transportation, Alberta Forest Service and Alberta Recreation and Parks. At present, a number of Alberta Transportation and Alberta Forestry campgrounds have been turned over or are in the process of being turned over to Alberta Recreation and Parks. It is felt that the most recent turnover of such campgrounds has been reflected in this report.

Municipal/County Campgrounds

A number of standard or common services are listed, and then each campsite is detailed by location, operator and differing level of service and amenity.

Private Campgrounds

The private campgrounds for each subregion are described as the others. A listing of standard or common services is provided, followed by a detailing of each campground and its services and amenities.

The analysis described for each of the foregoing segments is provided for each of the four subregions in Zone 14, as outlined on the following pages. A map of Zone 14 has been provided at the end of the campground section, which locates all of the campgrounds and parks described herein.

Table VI-1

EDMONTON PLAINS SUBREGION
PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

Provincial Parks

The parks listed below have the following in common:

- Tent or trailer sites;
- Charge;
- No electric/water hook-ups;
- Stoves/fireplaces;
- Pit toilets (all Provincial Park campgrounds have pit toilets that are pumped out);
- Fishing;
- Beach and swimming;
- Boat launch.

The following table lists the differences between campgrounds:

Location	Sites	Shelter	Tap/Pump Water	Hiking Trails	Play Ground	Trailer Dump	Phone	Tables	Pit/Flush Toilets
Calling Lake	27	N	T	N	N	N	N	Y	F
Cross Lake	80	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P
Thunder Lake	128	Y	Both	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P

Legend

Y	=	Yes
N	=	No
T	=	Tap Water
P	=	Pump Water
Both	=	Tap and Pump Water
F	=	Flush Toilets
P	=	Pit Toilets

Provincial Campgrounds

The campgrounds listed in the table below have the following in common:

- Free charge;
- Firewood;
- Tent or trailer sites;
- Stoves/fireplaces;
- No hook-ups;
- Tables;
- Pit toilets;
- Pump water.

The following table lists the differences between the campgrounds:

Location	Operator	Highway	Sites	Shelter	Fishing	Beach	Swimming	Boat Launch	Trailer Dump	Grocery
Boyle	AT	63	9	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Chisholm	AT	44	8	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Fawcett Lake	AF	2A	N/A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Flatbush	AT	44	6	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Fort Assiniboine (Holmes Crossing)	AT	33	15	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Freedom	AT	18	18	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Jarvie	AT	44	7	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Lawrence Lake	AF	2	27	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Rochester	AT	2	7	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Sandy Beach	AT	642	0	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	N	Y
Smith	AT	2A	2	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Vimy	AT	2	8	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N

Legend

Y	=	Yes
N	=	No
N/A	=	Not Available
AT	=	Alberta Transportation
AF	=	Alberta Forestry

Municipal/County Campgrounds

The campgrounds operated by local governments listed in the table below have the following in common:

- Tent/trailer sites;
- Stove/fireplace;
- Tables.

The following table lists the differences between campgrounds:

Location	Operator	Sites	Charge	Flush/Pit Toilet	Hook-up	Showers	Tap/Pump Water	Shelter	Fishing	Beach	Swimming	Boat Launch	Play Ground
Athabasca -- Athabasca	TO	N/A	N	F	N	Y	T	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N
Barrhead -- Elk's Beach	TC	270	Y	Both	E & W	Y	T	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Barrhead -- Klondyke Ferry	CO	4	N	P	N	N	P	N	N	N	N	N	N
Barrhead -- Peanut Lake	CO	15	N	P	N	N	P	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Barrhead -- Rotary Park	TC	30	N	P	N	N	P	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
Riviere Qui Barre -- Sandy Lake Resort	MD	N/A	N	P	N	N	P	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tiger Lily -- Clear Lake	CO	N/A	N	P	N	N	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Westlock -- Mountie Park	TO	20	N	F	N	Y	T	N	N	N	N	N	N

Legend

Y	=	Yes
N	=	No
N/A	=	Not Available
TO	=	Town
CO	=	County
MD	=	Municipal District
TC	=	Town/Club
E & W	=	Electricity and Water
F	=	Flush Toilets
P	=	Pit Toilets
Both	=	Pit and Flush Toilets
E & W	=	Electricity and Water Hook-ups
T	=	Tap Water
P	=	Pump Water

Private Campgrounds

The privately operated campgrounds listed in the table below have the following services in common:

- Charge;
- Tent or trailer sites;
- Tap water;
- Pit toilets;
- Stove/fireplace;
- Firewood;
- Tables;
- Playground.

The following table lists the differences between campgrounds:

Location	Sites	E & W Service	Tables	Fishing	Play Ground	Boat Launch	Boat Rental	Phone	Grocery	Flush Toilet	Beach	Swimming
Barrhead -- Sunset Cove Campground	40	E	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Boyle -- Skeleton Lake Resort	200	E & W	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Legal -- Alberta Wilderness Park	N/A*	N	N/A	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Smith -- Fawcett Lake Resort	250	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y

*Campsites provided at the Alberta Wilderness Park are free of charge.

Legend

Y	=	Yes
N	=	No
N/A	=	N/A
E & W	=	Electricity and Water Hook-ups
E	=	Electricity Hook-ups

Table VI-2

SLAVE LAKE SUBREGION
PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

Provincial Parks

The parks listed in the table below have the following in common:

- Charge;
- No hook-ups;
- Stove/fireplace;
- Firewood;
- Tables;
- Pit toilet (all Provincial Park campgrounds have pit toilets that are pumped out);
- Pump water;
- Fishing;
- Beach;
- Swimming;
- Playground;
- Phone.

The following table lists the differences between campgrounds:

Location	Sites	Shelter	Tap Water	Hiking Trails	Boat Launch	Trailer Dump	Concession
Hilliard's Bay	54	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
Lesser Slave Lake	105	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Winagami Lake	64	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

Legend

Y = Yes
N = No

Provincial Campgrounds

The campgrounds listed in the table below have the following in common:

- Free charge;
- Tent or trailer sites;
- No hook-ups;
- Shelter;
- Stove/fireplace;
- Firewood;
- Tables;
- Pit toilet;
- Pump water.

The following table lists the differences between campgrounds:

Location	Operator	Highway	Sites	Boat Launch	Fishing	Beach	Swimming
Donnelly -- Little Smoky River	AT	744	50	N	N	N	N
Girouxville -- Watino	AT	49	25	Y	N	N	N
High Prairie -- High Prairie	R & P	2	20	N	N	N	N
Kinuso -- Kinuso Beach	R & P	2	10	Y	Y	Y	Y
Slave Lake -- Assineau River	R & P	2	14	N	N	N	N
Slave Lake -- Lesser Slave River	R & P	2	15	N	N	N	N
Slave Lake -- Mitsue Lake	R & P	2	17	N	N	N	N

Legend

Y = Yes
N = No
AT = Alberta Transportation
R & P = Alberta Recreation and Parks

Municipal/County Campgrounds

The municipally operated campgrounds listed in the table below have the following in common:

- Free charge;
- Tent or trailer sites;
- No hook-ups;
- Pit toilet;
- Pump water;
- Tables.

The following table lists the differences between campgrounds:

Location	Operator	Shelter	Stove/ Fireplace	Firewood	Play Ground	Beach	Boat Launch
Donnelly -- Municipal Campground	TC	N	N	N	N	N	N
Falher -- Municipal Campground	TO	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Girouxville -- Peavine Creek	MD	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
High Prairie -- Banana Belt Park	ID	N	N	N	Y	N	N
*High Prairie -- Prairie Echo Community Park	ID	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Kinuso -- Spruce Point Park	ID	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
McLennan -- Winagami Lake Public Campground	ID	N	N	N	N	Y	N

*High Prairie -- Prairie Echo Community Park has no tables.

Note: None of the campgrounds above specified the number of sites.

Legend

Y	=	Yes
N	=	No
TC	=	Town/Club
TO	=	Town
MD	=	Municipal District
ID	=	Improvement District

Private Campgrounds

The privately operated campgrounds listed in the table below have the following in common:

- Charge;
- Tables;
- Stove/fireplace;
- Firewood;
- Telephone;
- Hiking;
- Fishing;
- Boat launch.

The following table lists the differences between campgrounds:

Location	Sites	Tap/Pump Water	Grocery	Play Ground	Boat Rental
Jean Cote -- Rainbow Trout Farm	55	T	Y	Y	Y
Slave Lake -- Diamond Willow Campground	30	P	N	N	N

Legend

Y = Yes
N = No
T = Tap Water
P = Pump Water

Table VI-3

SWAN HILLS SUBREGION
PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

Provincial Parks

There are no Provincial Parks in this Subregion.

Provincial Campgrounds

The campgrounds listed in the table below have the following in common:

- Free charge;
- Tent or trailer sites;
- No hook-ups;
- Shelter;
- Stove/fireplace;
- Firewood;
- Tables;
- Pit toilet;
- Pump water.

The following table lists the differences between campgrounds:

Location	Operator	Sites	Location From Town	Highway
Freeman River	AF	10	-	32
*Goose Lake	AF	25	30 km W	658
Freeman Lake	AF	10	8 km W	32
Jerry's Creek	AT	N/A	44 km N	33
Trapper Lea's Cabin	AT	11	30 km SE	33

*Goose Lake also has fishing, a beach, and a boat launch.

Legend

N/A = Not Available
AT = Alberta Transportation
AF = Alberta Forestry

Municipal/County Campgrounds

Swan Hills Campground is operated by the Town of Swan Hills and has the following:

- 15 sites;
- Tent or trailer sites;
- No service hook-ups;
- Pump water;
- Trailer dump.

Private Campgrounds

There are no private campgrounds in this Subregion.

Table VI-4

NORTHERN LAKES SUBREGION
PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

Provincial Parks

There are no provincial parks in this Subregion.

Provincial Campgrounds

The campgrounds listed in the table below have the following in common:

- Free charge;
- Tent or trailer sites;
- No hook-ups;
- No shelter;
- Stove/fireplace;
- Firewood;
- Pit toilets;
- Pump water.

The following table lists the differences between campgrounds:

Location	Operator	Sites	Highway	Fishing	Beach	Boat Launch
North Wabasca Lake	AF	51	754	Y	Y	Y
Peerless Lake	AF	20	67	Y	Y	Y
Tall Cree	AF	20	67	N	N	N

Legend

Y = Yes
N = No
AF = Alberta Forestry

Municipal/County Campgrounds

There are no municipally operated campgrounds in this Subregion.

Private Campgrounds

There are no private campgrounds in this Subregion.

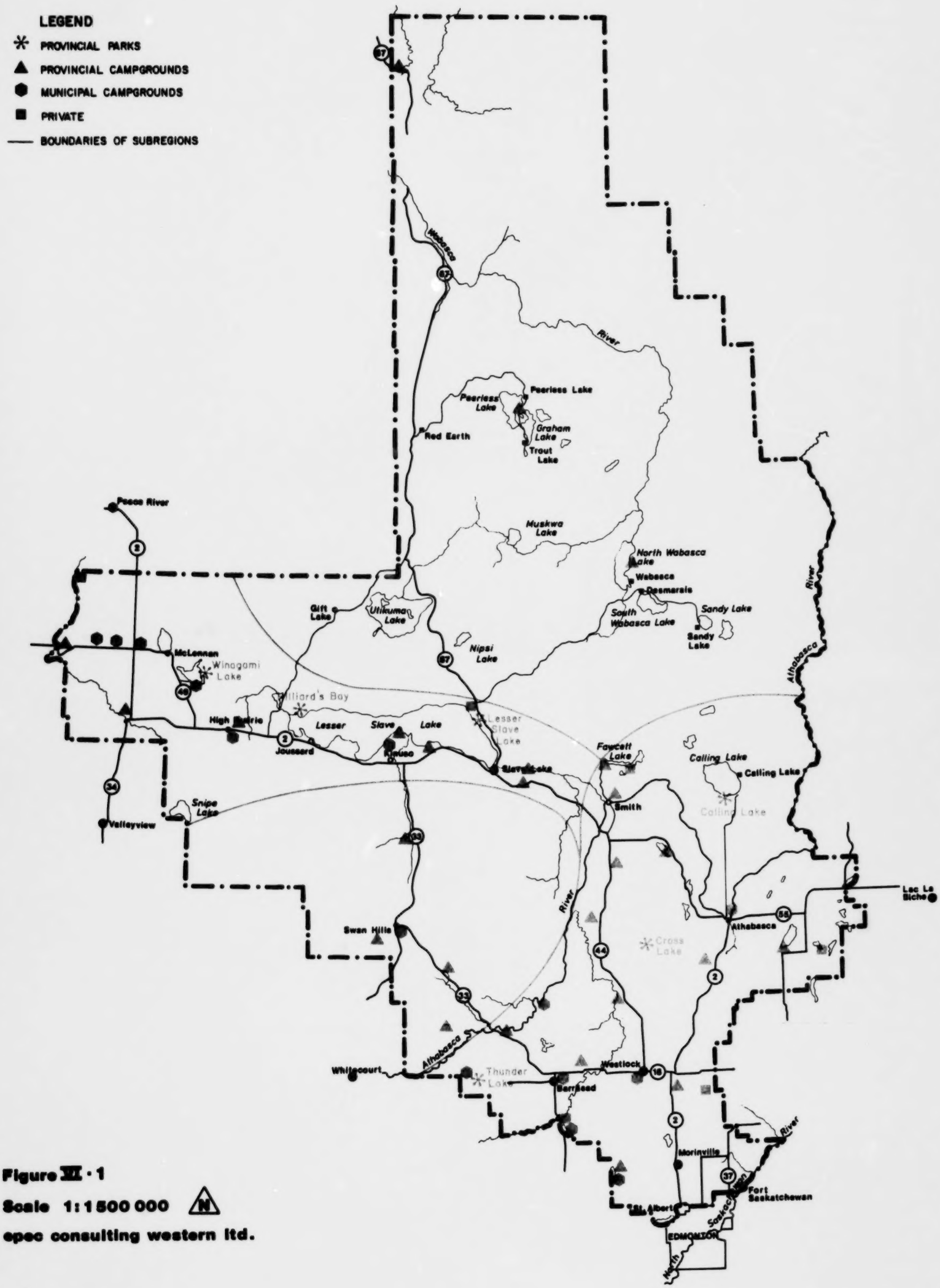

Figure XI · 1

Scale 1:1 500 000

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Campgrounds of Zone 14

2.0 ADDITIONAL TOURISM RESOURCES

An inventory of existing tourism resources including package tours, outfitters, and guest ranch/farm vacation services was completed for Zone 14.

Bus

At the present time package bus tours are not provided within Zone 14. One operator providing a tour to the Oil Sands area of Fort McMurray makes an unscheduled stop at the buffalo compound near Westlock at Clyde.

Regular scheduled bus service is provided to most communities in the Zone.

Rail

Passenger rail service is not provided by Canadian National Railways in Zone 14, nor is such service projected for the future. The rail lines will remain for freight service only.

Air

Regular scheduled air service is not provided to communities in Zone 14. Four charter companies operate in the Zone; JEFCO Aviation (Swan Hills), Peace Air Ltd. (Slave Lake), Trans North Air (Slave Lake), and Alberta Central Airways Ltd. (Athabasca). These charter companies do not run a regular package fishing and/or hunting tour to any locations in the Zone. However, Alberta Central Airways Ltd. has been operating a fishing package to northeastern Alberta for some years.

The landing strips and helipads in Zone 14 are listed in Appendix D.

Fly-In Fishing Lodges

There are no fly-in fishing lodges in Zone 14.

River Outfitters

Three river outfitters operate within Zone 14.

Jetboat fishing and hunting trips are available through Denis Cardinal in Wabasca. Wabasca Lake and the Wabasca River are the locations for these trips.

Rafting adventure holidays on the Athabasca River are available from two companies, Wilderness River Encounters Ltd. and Hunter Valley Recreation Ltd. Both firms put in at the Town of Athabasca and take out at Fort McMurray. The Grand Rapids provide the major whitewater excitement along this route.

Outfitters/Guides

There are 19 Class A guides living in Zone 14. Class A guides are licensed to guide in all regions, including the alpine regions of Alberta. A further 123 Class B guides reside in Zone 14 and are licensed to operate in all but the alpine regions of Alberta. Appendix C lists the guides in Zone 14.

Only one trailride outfitter, CaleJ Trailriding Ltd. (Enilda), is listed in the Travel Alberta Guide as operating within Zone 14. No data was available to indicate the existence of any other trailride outfitters in Zone 14.

Guest Ranches/Farm Vacation

Guest ranches in Alberta are located primarily in the Foothills and the eastern slopes of the Rockies. No guest ranches or farm vacation enterprises exist in Zone 14.

The Community Resources and Community Tourism Resources inventories have been integrated with the natural, historical and archaeological analysis in the Development Potential section of this report. High potential tourism development opportunities have been identified on the basis of land use capability, existing infrastructural and tourism development, willingness of certain areas to accept tourism development and current market considerations. These elements have been combined to priorize the development opportunities, and to provide the necessary inputs into the development recommendations.

In addition to the specified High Development Potential areas, recommendations have been made regarding a number of Zone tourism activities which are believed to be most appropriate for Zone 14.

Market Overview - Midnight Twilight Zone

VII

MARKET OVERVIEW
MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT ZONE

1.0 MARKET OVERVIEW

When considering the travel market, one must be very careful to examine the various kinds of travel into a particular Zone. The term Tourist can be very misleading in this context, since by many definitions a day visitor to any of Zone 14's attractions would not necessarily be a tourist, but rather a "recreation" seeker.

In this Zone 14 market overview, we will refer to visitors, both residents of Alberta and non-residents, and we will not distinguish between pleasure visitors or business visitors since it is the combination of all kinds of visitors and visits that forms what Zone 14 considers to be its Tourism Market. The figures are drawn from several sources including the following:

- 1976 Alberta Travel Survey;
- 1978 Alberta Tourism Handbook -- The Travel Market;
- 1978 Alberta Household Travel Study;
- 1981 Vacation Travel by Canadians;
- 1980 Canadian Travel Survey -- CGOT;
- 1980-81 Travel Trends and Research Bulletins -- CGOT;
- 1976-81 Alberta Transportation Highway Traffic Counts;
- 1982 City of Edmonton Marketing Strategy and Five-Year Marketing Plan -- Hickling-Johnston Limited.

These sources have been utilized to develop market statistics, and travel trends relevant to Alberta, and where possible to Zone 14.

1.1 GENERAL MARKET TRENDS -- ALBERTA

Socio-economic trends in tourism and recreation form an important context for the development opportunities presented in other sections of this report. A number of general trends, and some Zone specific statistics which are indicative of the potential demand for the tourism developments outlined in this report, are presented in this chapter.

Despite the current recession, total personal incomes in Alberta and in Edmonton (Zone 14's largest single market) have continued to rise at an average annual rate of 15.2 percent to 15.5 percent (see table VII-1). This level of personal income has given rise to some very interesting trends as follows:

- Trend lines in both participation and attitudinal surveys show a greater percentage of Canadians seeking and achieving an increase in recreational experiences;

- Canadians still find the money to travel/vacation, but they are travelling closer to home;

- Over 81 percent of trips of less than 700 kilometres (450 miles) from home are automobile trips;

- Albertans represented over 79 percent of visitor/person trips registered in Alberta in 1977 and in 1980 this figure had risen to 81 percent;

- Of Alberta residents travelling in Alberta, 37 percent were pleasure trips, 31 percent were visiting friends and relatives, 19 percent were business related trips;

Table VII-1

Personal Income -- 1976-1981 ($ millions)

Year	Alberta	% Inc.	*Edmonton Metro	% Inc.	% Edm. Metro Of Alberta
1976	12,829		4,105		32.0
1977	14,527	13.2	4,678	13.9	32.2
1978	16,348	12.5	5,280	12.8	32.3
1979	19,493	19.2	6,218	17.8	31.9
1980	22,655	16.2	7,343	17.8	32.4
*1981	26,053	15.0	8,467	15.0	32.5
Average		15.2		15.5	32.2

*Estimated by Business Development Department, City of Edmonton

Source: Alberta Bureau of Statistics -- Economic Accounts, 1980

- Over 1/3 (37 percent) of the trips by Alberta households were day trips, and 63 percent were overnight, with the average length of overnight trip being 1.62 days;

- There is increasing discretionary time available to Albertans, whether this is due to improved economic prosperity or extended periods of slow growth/recession where discretionary time is forced on individuals; the net result is increased demand for a wide range of leisure and recreation services in major market areas;

- Changing social structure in Alberta society (i.e. decline in family size, increase in non-family adult households) will result in increased opportunities for adult oriented facilities and services, as well as changing the traditional marketing efforts towards specific target market groups.

1.2 MARKET TRENDS -- NORTHERN ALBERTA (ZONE 14)

In 1976, a major Travel Survey was prepared which delineated specific travel statistics for each of the Tourist Zones in Alberta, based on a number of visitor and resident interviews, as well as traffic counts on major highways throughout the Province.

Using 1976 as the base data year, the market has been projected for Zone 14 to 1981, and there is no doubt that visitations have increased substantially over the five year period. Table VII-2 illustrates the traffic counts at various highway locations for 1976 to 1981.

The overall increase in average annual daily traffic in this area is approximately 67 percent in 1981 over 1976, for an average annual growth of approximately 12 percent to 13 percent in traffic volume.

Table VII-2

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC FLOWS — 1976 - 1981
AVERAGE ANNUAL AND SUMMER DAILY TRAFFIC

AADT -- Average Annual Daily Traffic
ASDT -- Average Summer Daily Traffic

Location		1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Highway 2, west of Legal, north branch	AADT	3500	3220		2540		3770
	ASDT	3850	3600		2880		4230
Highway 2, west of Rochester, north branch	AADT		820	1040			1300
	ASDT		920	1180			1390
Highway 2, Baptiste Lake, north branch	AADT	450		910			1060
	ASDT	510		1030			1130
Highway 2 and 67, west branch	AADT	1450	1370	1350	1490	1960	1990
	ASDT	1610	1530	1530	1680	2180	2120
Highway 2, Kinuso, west branch	AADT	910	1190	1110	1110	1170	1280
	ASDT	1010	1330	1260	1260	1300	1360
Highway 67, Slave Lake, 3.2 km north Highway 2	AADT	600	520				1250
	ASDT	700	580				1370
Highway 67, Sec. 754 to Wabasca, south branch	AADT		350	290	380	520	890
	ASDT		390	320	430	580	980
Highway 67, Sec. 754 to Wabasca, north branch	AADT		300	196	196	360	240
	ASDT		330	210	220	400	260
Highway 67, Sec. 750 to Gift Lake, south branch	AADT	150	170	90	210	80	260
	ASDT	170	190	100	240	90	290
Highway 67, Sec. 750 to Gift Lake, north branch	AADT	90	70	50	80	50	150
	ASDT	100	80	50	90	60	160
Secondary 750 and Highway 2 to Grouard	AADT			320		700	710
	ASDT	385		350		770	770
Secondary 750 and Highway 67, west branch	AADT		170	120	220	270	300
	ASDT	90	180	130	250	280	320
Secondary 754 and Highway 67 to Wabasca	AADT		290	100	200	170	220
	ASDT	350	320	110	230	190	240
Highway 2A, south of Hondo, north branch	AADT				140		160
	ASDT				150		180
Highway 33 and Sec. 658, north branch	AADT	600	490	680	680		970
	ASDT	670	540	780	770		1060

Applying these figures to the 1976 visitor statistics for northern Alberta and Zone 14, which includes Zone 13 and Zone 8, we could estimate that in 1981, approximately 77,000 non-resident visitor parties visited these three Zones resulting in 162,000 person trips (based on 46,000 visitor parties in 1976, and average party size of 2.1). Based on average daily expenditure of $65, this would indicate that total visitor expenditures of over $10,500,000 in these Zones in 1981, up over $3,800,000 from 1976 -- a growth of 57 percent over the five year period.

1.3 ZONE 14 VISITOR CHARACTERISTICS

Visitors to Zone 14 are comprised of two groups -- Albertans travelling to the Zone, and non-Albertans travelling to the Zone.

1.3.1 Albertans As Visitors

1.3.1.1 Participation

In 1980, 81 percent of the visitors to Zone 14 were Albertans travelling inside the Province of Alberta, and 90 percent of such trips were made by private motor vehicle.

The activities Albertan's particpated in most regularly during this travel is as shown in Table VII-3 from the 1978 Alberta Household Survey.

1.3.1.2 Outdoor Recreation

In terms of outdoor recreation activities in which Albertans participate, data from the 1978 Household Survey is presented in Table VII-4.

Table VII-3

Activities Participated In During Travel Inside The Province (Full Year)

Type Of Activity	Total Participating
- Outdoor Recreation	29%
- Spectator Sports, Festivals, or Special Events	6%
- Sightseeing	13%
- Cultural Activities and Entertainment	6%
- Conventions/Meetings	13%
- Weddings, Funerals, Family Reunions	8%
- Visiting	36%
- Other	24%
	135%*

*Participation exceeds 100% because of participation in more than one activity during trip.

Table VII-4

Participation In Outdoor Recreation Activities During Travel Inside Alberta

Type Of Activity	Total Participating
- Boating, Swimming, Water Skiing	21%
- Hunting, Fishing	26%
- Walking, Jogging, Hiking	45%
- Mountain Climbing	4%
- Cycling	4%
- Downhill Skiing	9%
- Cross-Country Skiing	6%
- Skating	3%
- Team Or Other Sports	10%
- Other	15%

1.3.1.3 Origin Of Visitors

Albertans visiting northern Alberta come from the following geographic areas within Alberta as shown in Table VII-5.

Table VII-5, combined with additional data indicating the average distance travelled per trip of 240 km to 270 km (150 miles to 170 miles) would indicate that the market for Albertans travelling in northern Alberta is predominantly regional, with the focus on Edmonton as the largest metropolitan centre in northern Alberta.

1.3.2 **Non-Albertans As Visitors**

1.3.2.1 Origin

Non-Albertans travelling to Alberta represent roughly 19 percent of all visitation to the Province. Of this number, approximately 71 percent are other Canadians, 26 percent are American, and 3 percent are from outside North America. Of the Canadian visitors to Alberta, 67 percent come from two provinces, British Columbia (42 percent) and Saskatchewan (25 percent). The American visitors originate primarily from California (19 percent), Montana (7 percent), and other Western States (38 percent).

1.3.2.2 Primary Activity During Trip

From the Alberta Travel Survey, Table VII-6 outlines the primary activities of non-Albertans travelling in Alberta.

It was also determined that 80 percent of non-Albertans travelling in Alberta, travelled in private motor vehicles, highlighting the importance of catering to rubber tired traffic in Zone 14.

Table VII-5

Origin Of Visitors Travelling In Zone 14

Origin	Percentage
- Metropolitan (Edmonton & Calgary)	38%
- South	4%
- Central	12%
- North	44%
- Parks (Banff & Jasper)	2%

Table VII-6

Primary Activities

Type Of Activity	Visitors Travelling In Alberta
- Visiting Friends Or Relatives	23%
- Sporting Activities	7%
- Camping	6%
- Sightseeing -- Away From Cities And Towns	18%
- Sightseeing -- In Cities And Towns	9%
- Special Events/Attractions	5%
- Shopping	1%
- Other	28%
- Not Stated	2%
	100%

1.3.2.3 Who Are They?

For the most part, non-Albertan visitors are members of family groups averaging 1.9 persons per household party on an annual basis and 2.2 persons per party during the summer months.

About two thirds of the household parties consist only of adults aged 20 and over (34 percent age 20 to 34; 25 percent aged 35 to 49; and 23 percent aged 50 years and over).

1.4 INCREASED MARKETING EFFORTS

Much of the growth in the Northern Zones can be directly attributed to a number of specific marketing efforts carried out by each of the Zones, the Northern Zones working co-operatively and the Zones working with Travel Alberta. Specific efforts include:

- Northern Woods and Water Route;
- Stamp Around Alberta;
- Increased communication and awareness within each Zone;
- Mightnight Twilight Treasure Hunt (1982).

1.5 CONTINUED IMPORTANCE OF MARKETING

The importance of continued market efforts cannot be stressed too strongly. Zone 14 has enjoyed significant success in its efforts to attract travellers by marketing the Zone in conjunction with Travel Alberta and neighbouring Zones. These efforts must continue, and if ongoing projects such as the "Destination North" program, and continued support of the Northern Woods and Water Route Association are any indication, the future appears excellent for Zone 14.

Marketing must be viewed as comprising several components, each of which is closely interrelated, and in its own way, integral to overall marketing success. The four basic components of marketing are:

- Product;
- Price;
- Place;
- Promotion.

The Four P's of marketing are stressed at this time because they are fundamental to the suggested development opportunities in the second chapter of this report. The Four P's are also mentioned now, because the Zone must never lose sight of the fact that all four elements of marketing are essential to continued success in attracting and servicing visitors, and ensuring that visitors have their needs met satisfactorily.

Even more basic to ongoing tourism success, is the perspective of developing tourist products on the basis of identified target market needs and desires. In other words, products should only be developed in response to proven local market demands. Such market demands will dictate the place, product and price aspects of marketing mix while promotion then plays the role of educating, informing and enticing the user of the product to the Zone to participate in the product. A brief description of each of the four elements of marketing follows.

1.5.1 Product

In the context of tourism, this product component can deal with various aspects of the identified needs of the tourist. If an area has a unique or outstanding natural resource (e.g. Lesser Slave Lake) then the products developed to support such a natural resource must meet the needs of the potential market for the natural resource. Such product development would also include accommodation, food services, recreational services and facilities, good transportation access, good signing.

1.5.2 Price

Pricing of a tourism product is more often than not a function of capital and operating costs plus some element of profit. However, in marketing terms, pricing becomes an element of the overall mix, in the context that very often reducing the price can result in much higher utilization, which offers the potential for maximizing the utilization of secondary products and services, thereby creating spin-off opportunities for a variety of products. Profit is certainly a valid motive for tourism, but products must be planned so that the tourist has ample opportunity to spend his/her money on a good variety of choices. Disneyland is an excellent example of a good pricing strategy. The cost of admission is relatively low for the quality of product being offered, yet the per capita expenditure of visitors to Disneyland is high because of the range of expenditure opportunities presented to the visitor once inside the gates.

1.5.3 Place

Place or location is a very important element of the tourist product, and thus the overall marketing mix. Considerations regarding place include ease of access, availability of parking, signing, physical attractiveness of the product, hours of operation. Amongst the significant problems in Zone 14 at present, is the quality of access and signing for many of the existing products in the Zone. It is a problem that will have to be dealt with, as is being done at present. The point being made here is that any new developments must consider the existing level of transportation access, and the ease with which tourists can use the product. New developments should not be built in inaccessible locations in the hope that someone else will build a road or provide the necessary signing. Also, when a product is promoted in circle tour brochures or other materials, hours of operations should be ensured to be as advertised, and that these hours of operation should be those most suitable to the potential customer.

1.5.4 Promotion

Promotion encompasses a broad spectrum of activities including advertising, public relations, public service announcements, selling, information, communication and education. It normally offers the most potential for achieving enhanced revenue goals, if undertaken with the other elements of the marketing mix as outlined herein. Those elements of promotion that are most important include:

- Identification of target markets;
- Utilization of effective media;
- Co-operation with other groups and agencies;
- Significant inter and intra Zone education and marketing -- commitment of operators;
- Monitoring of users' satisfaction;
- Monitoring and evaluation of promotional campaigns;
- Use of co-operative advertising where appropriate;
- Effective dissemination of information.

1.5.5 Summary

The market for Zone 14 has been growing steadily over the past few years, and given the apparent resurgence of Zone member interest in 1981 and 1982, it would appear that the future seems reasonably bright. It is imperative however, that the tourism development opportunities outlined in the second chapter of this report be implemented with full consideration of the Four P's of marketing.

The Development Opportunities chapter of this report outlines the high potential tourism development opportunities in each of the four subregions of the Midnight Twilight Zone. In addition, a number of recommendations have been made regarding Zone-wide efforts for tourism development.

Macro Economic and Market Assessment

VIII

MACRO ECONOMIC AND MARKET ASSESSMENT

For each of the Primary Development Opportunities described in Chapter II of this report, macro level economic and market assessments have been completed. For each of the subregions in Zone 14, specific development opportunities have been suggested, and each such opportunity carries a capital cost. Dependent upon such costs, a judgement as to the economic or market viability has been made. And based upon this viability assessment, the proposed operator/investor has been suggested.

In all cases where the assessment indicates an opportunity to be viable, the recommended operator/investor has been private sector. Where viability is deemed to be marginal or non-existent, some form of public sector operator/investor has been indicated. This includes provincial, municipal and club organizations. The club organizations could include service clubs such as Lions or Kiwanis as well as special interest clubs such as ski clubs or snowmobile clubs.

On the following pages are presented a number of charts which summarize the development opportunities outlined in Chapter II for each of the subregions:

- Slave Lake;
- Swan Hills;
- Edmonton Plains;
- Northern Lakes.

The second column of these charts provides, macro level capital costs which should be considered preliminary in nature and subject to detailed analysis in later phases of the Tourism Destination Area Planning Process.

The third column of the charts presents the assessment of the economic/market feasibility of the recommended opportunity. These assessments are based on the knowledge and experience of Study Team members, and not on detailed market and operating data. Formal feasibility assessments are part of the planning process referred to earlier, and are recommended in every development opportunity described.

The final column of the charts suggests the appropriate operator/investor, given the nature of the development opportunity, and the assessment of economic/market viability. The assessments for each subregion follow.

Table VIII-1

MACRO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET ASSESSMENT -- HIGH PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
SLAVE LAKE SUBREGION
(1982 Dollars)

Development	Macro Cost Estimate	Macro Market/ Economic Feasibility (No, Yes, Marginal)	Operator/Investor
1. Marina/Boat Launch			
. 50 Slips . Expansion Capability to 200 . Breakwater . Dredging . Parking . Boat Storage	$ 700,000 to 1,000,000	- No	- Federal Wharves Program - Private/Provincial Operator - Provincial Capital
2. Retail Boating Service			
. Rentals . Parts/Service/Sales . Gas/Oil . Building 233m^2 (2500 sq.ft.)	$ 50,000 75,000 $ 125,000	- Yes	- Private Operator
3. Accommodation Development			
. Rental Cottage 20 units @ $10,000	$ 220,000	- Yes	- Private -- Native Potential

Development	Macro Cost Estimate	Macro Market/ Economic Feasibility (No, Yes, Marginal)	Operator/Investor
4. Beach Clearing and Maintenance (Expansion)			
. 20 km Beach	$ 20,000	- Marginal -- in conjunction with other development	- Provincial/Municipal/Private
5. Family Beach Areas			
. Roped Swimming Areas @ $200 . Slides (2 per) @ $500 . Diving Platform @ $500 . Tables (20 per area) @ $100 . Restrooms (4 per area) @ $1000 (4 areas initially)	$ 30,000	- No	- Provincial/Municipal/Club
6. Beach Concessions			
. 4 Areas (buildings, inventory)	$ 40,000	- Yes	- Private
7. Campgrounds			
. Expansion -- $2000 - $4000/site (50 - 100 sites)	$ 100,000 to 400,000		
. Improvements $1000/site (100 - 200 sites)	$ 100,000 to 200,000	- Marginal	- Provincial/Municipal/Private

Development	Macro Cost Estimate		Macro Market/ Economic Feasibility (No, Yes, Marginal)	Operator/Investor
8. Historic/Cultural Development				
. $2000 - $10,000 per site (6 - 10 sites)		$ 12,000 to 100,000	- Marginal	- Provincial/Municipal/Private
9. Ski Hill Development				
. Lodge 186m^2 (2000 sq.ft.)	$ 120,000			
. Parking (150 spaces)	15,000			
. Retail/Rentals (Inventory)	25,000	$ 160,000	- Yes	- Ski Club/Private
10. Scenic Drives				
. Pull-off @ $5000 (gravel)	$ 60,000			
. Garbage Facilities @ $100	1,200			
. View Windows $1000	12,000			
. Picnic Tables 10/rest @ $100 (12 sites)	12,000	$ 75,200	- No	- Provincial/Municipal/Service Groups

Table VIII-2

MACRO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET ASSESSMENT -- HIGH PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
SWAN HILLS SUBREGION
(1982 Dollars)

Development	Macro Cost Estimate		Macro Market/ Economic Feasibility (No, Yes, Marginal)	Operator/Investor
1. Snowmobile Recreation Development				
. Lodge 186m^2 (2000 sq.ft.)	$ 120,000			
- Parking (100)	10,000			
- Cafeteria	25,000			
- Service/Retail Sales	25,000			
	$ 180,000			
. Snowmobile Track				
- 1 kilometre (½ mile) banked	$ 10,000	$ 190,000	- Yes	- Club/Private
2. Downhill Skiing				
. Existing Ski Hill Upgrade				
- Lodge 186m^2 (2000 sq.ft.)	$ 120,000			
- Parking (150 spaces)	15,000			
- Retail/Rentals (Inventory)	25,000	$ 160,000	- Yes	- Ski Club/Private

Development	Macro Cost Estimate		Macro Market/ Economic Feasibility (No, Yes, Marginal)	Operator/Investor
3. R.V. Course Development				
. 4WD Course - 2 km (1 mile)	$ 25,000			
. Motocross Course - 2 km (1 mile)	35,000			
. Dirt Track - 1 km (½ mile) banked	35,000			
. Trials Course - 1½ km (3/4 mile)	10,000			
	$ 105,000			
. Viewing Areas (4 areas)	$ 10,000			
. Restrooms (1 area x 2)	10,000			
. Concessions (1 area)	25,000	$ 150,000	- Marginal	- Club/Private
4. Town of Swan Hills				
. R.V./ATV Retail Outlet				
- Service				
- Sales 186m^2 (2000 sq.ft.)	$ 120,000			
- Parts Inventory	30,000	$ 150,000	- Yes	- Private
. Four Season Municipal Campground				
- 50 - 75 Units (expandable)		$ 150,000 to 225,000	- Marginal	- Municipal/Service Club
5. Highway Paving	N/A		- No	- Provincial

Table VIII-3

MACRO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET ASSESSMENT -- HIGH PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
EDMONTON PLAINS SUBREGION
(1982 Dollars)

Development	Macro Cost Estimate		Macro Market/ Economic Feasibility (No, Yes, Marginal)	Operator/Investor
1. Recreational Lake Development				
. Access -- Road Linkages	N/A		- No	- Provincial
. Infrastructure -- Sewer/Water/Power	N/A		- No	- Provincial
. Campgrounds	N/A		- No	- Provincial
. Retail Service(s)		$ 30,000	- Yes	- Private
. Rental Cabins:				
20 @ 6 locations @ $10,000/unit		$1,200,000	- Yes	- Private
. Lodges:				
1 large 372m^2 (4000 sq.ft. @$90/ft.)	$ 360,000		- Yes	- Private
1 medium 280m^2 (3000 sq.ft. @$90/ft.)	270,000		- Yes	- Private
1 small 186m^2 (2000 sq.ft. @ $90/ft.)	180,000	$ 810,000	- Yes	- Private
2. Upland Recreation Development				
. Rourke Creek	N/A		- No	- Provincial
3. Historic and Cultural Development				
. Athabasca Landing Trail	N/A		- No	- Trail North/Provincial
4. Town of Athabasca				
. Waterfront Re-development	Several Millions		- No	- Provincial/Municipal
. Paddlewheeler/Restaurant		$ 150,000 to 250,000	- Marginal	- Private/Public

Table VIII-4

MACRO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET ASSESSMENT — HIGH PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
NORTHERN LAKES SUBREGION
(1982 Dollars)

Development	Macro Cost Estimate		Macro Market/ Economic Feasibility (No, Yes, Marginal)	Operator/Investor
1. Peerless Lake				
. Lodge/Cabins (10)	$ 220,000			
. Docking -- Boats/Planes	25,000			
. Boat/ATV Rentals	20,000			
. Outfitting/Guiding/Parts/Service	10,000	$ 275,000	- Marginal	- Private -- Native Potential

Appendices

APPENDIX A

ADDITIONS TO "ALBERTA EVENTS CALENDAR"
AND
MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT TOURIST ASSOCIATION EVENTS IN ZONE 14

ADDITIONS TO "ALBERTA EVENTS CALENDAR"

Location	Event	Comments
Gibbons	-	- No annual events have been listed
St. Albert	Festival Of The Arts	- 4th Annual was held on June 19 to July 4, 1982
St. Albert	Trade Fair	- Annual, will be held May 13 - 15, 1983 (Friday night and all day Saturday and Sunday -- a wide range of exhibitors)

MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT TOURIST ASSOCIATION
EVENTS IN ZONE 14

May 21 - Sep. 6	Golden Pike Derby -- Slave Lake Annual Event -- Offers a grand prize of $10,000 to the lucky angler that hooks the specially tagged "Golden Pike" released into Lesser Slave Lake every summer. Weekly prices of $100 for the largest fish caught. A weekly prize includes one for visiting anglers travelling at least 130 kilometres away and one for local fishermen. $500 is also offered to the largest fish caught during the season.
Jun. 12 & 13	Namao Air Show -- Canadian Forces Base - Namao Gates open 10:00 a.m. Air display 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Jun. 11 & 12	Bonanza Days -- Barrhead Rides, booths and bargains along main street, dunk tank, train rides.
Jun. 17 - 20	Rainmaker's Rodeo -- St. Albert Parade, midway, pro-rodeo and pro-chuckwagon.
Jun. 18 - 20	North Country Fair -- Joussard The "North Country Fair" will be coming again this summer, from June 18 to 20. This year it will be held in the Town of Joussard on Lesser Slave Lake. This is the fourth year of the event, which will feature top-ranking country and blues singers in a 60's style open air atmosphere. Camping along the lake, boating and fishing, with prizes for canoe racing events and a fish derby will all be part of the weekend. "It will be a festival of music and dance a celebration of the longest day of the sun," said Dale Rogers, who is helping co-ordinate the fair. Puppet show, clowns and magic show will also be presented for children. Proceeds will go to the North Country School, a private community institution funded by a group of parents and teachers in the area. Entertainers like Paul Hann, English Country, Crooked Creek, Blue Grass, Tom See, Kentucky Blues, and the Good Time Band will be there --along with anyone who brings a guitar and would like to play along.

	The fair will begin Friday evening and last until Sunday at 6:00 p.m. and the cost is $18.
Jun. 19 - Jul. 4	Festival of the Arts -- St. Albert Craft Fair and Sale -- Perron Arena
- Jun. 26	Citizenship Court Ceremony -- Court House 12:00 p.m.
- Jun. 21 - 26	Youth Art Show -- St. Albert Centre
- Jun. 19 - Jul. 4	St. Albert Artists Exhibition
- Jun. 19 - Jul. 4	Fantasy Farm
- Jul. 1	Family Picnic -- Lions Park 11:00 a.m. Amateur Photography Contest Winning photos on display during Festival '82
- Jun. 27	Guest Author -- W.O. Mitchell - Library
- Jun. 23, 24, 25, 26 & 30, Jul. 1, 2, & 3	Dinner Theatre "Naughty But Nice, Two" - Legion
- Jun. 20 & 21	Family Variety Night
- Jun. 30	Rocky Horror Rock Dance
- Jun. 24 - 27	"Magic Music Man of St. Albert Town" Playwriting Contest Photographers Exhibit
- Jun. 27	Fantasy For A Day -- For Grade 1 to 5 students
Jun. 26 & 27	Frontier Daze -- Morinville Parade 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Midway and Rodeo For more information call 939-3687
Jul. 1	Pioneer Days -- Triangle
Jul. 1 & 2	Spruce Point Park Annual Sports Day -- Kinuso
Jul. 3 & 4	2nd Annual Homecoming Days -- Perryvale Supper and Cabaret on 3rd Pancake Breakfast on 4th For more details call 698-2114
Jul. 3 & 4	Donnelly 60th Anniversary Homecoming '82 -- Donnelly

Jul. 9 & 10	Provincial Championship Junior Fastball -- St. Albert, Meadowview Park
Jul. 10 & 11	Boyle Fiesta Days Pancake breakfast, parade, ball tournament, beer fest, bench show, bingo and much more.
Jul. 24 & 25	"Fete au Village" -- Legal
Jul. 30 - Aug. 1	Riverboat Daze & Homecoming -- Slave Lake Running marathon
Jul. 31 - Aug. 1 & 2	Athabasca Lion's Rodeo & Athabasca Agricultural Fair Parade, pancake breakfast every morning, outdoor Church on Sunday, midway, bench show, beer gardens and rodeo events.
Jul. 19 - 27	The Northern Woods and Water Route Association is once again planning two cavalcades this summer. West-East leaves Dawson Creek July 19th and arrives in Winnipeg on July 27th.
Jul. 27 - Aug. 9	East-West leaves Winnipeg July 28th, and arrives in Dawson Creek on August 9th.
Aug. 4 & 5	High Prairie Elk Stampede & Professional Rodeo
Aug. 6 - 8	Annual Agri Days -- Barrhead
Aug. 7 & 8	Smoky River Agricultural Society Annual Fair -- Donnelly
Aug. 7 & 8	Agricultural Fair -- Gibbons Parade, various activities put on by community groups, e.g. ball tournament, dunk tank, dance, beer gardens and mini trade fair. For more information call 998-1504
Aug. 13 & 14	Open Skeet Competition -- Swan Hills
Aug. 13 & 14	High Prairie Agricultural Fair -- High Prairie
Aug. 13, 14 & 15	Harvest Days -- Bon Accord
Aug. 13 - 15	Blue Heron Fair -- Barrhead
Aug. 13 - 15	Westlock Agri Fair -- Westlock

Aug. 20 - 22	Boyle Rodeo -- Boyle
Aug. 21 - 23	Central Slave Lake Agri Fair -- Kinuso
Sep. 3 - 6	Trail Ride from Gibbons to Athabasca The sixth annual trail ride will commence at Gibbons with an assembly party on Friday, September 3rd. The first overnight stop at Bridge Lakes will feature a campfire party for the riders and their immediate families and friends. The second overnight stop on the Trail at our Perryvale Centre will feature a campfire party and some entertainment, and the public will be invited to join the fun.
Sep. 11	Country Music Concert & Dance -- Gibbons
Sep. 11 & 12	Smith-Hondo Agricultural Society Fall Fair -- Smith
June	Old St. Mary's Church -- Waugh Open Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Jul. 1 to Sep. 6	Every day from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- After Sep. 6	Every Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

APPENDIX B

UPDATED INVENTORY -- ADDITIONS TO "ACCOMMODATION GUIDE"

UPDATED INVENTORY

ADDITIONS TO "ACCOMMODATION GUIDE"

Location	Facility Name	Comments
Gibbons	Gibbon's Hotel	- Not approved
Legal	Legal Hotel	- Not approved
Legal	Alberta Wilderness Park	- Free overnight camping
Morinville	Morinville Hotel	- Not approved
Westlock	Southview Motel	- Uncertain future -- candidate for receivership. Approved
Fort Assiniboine	Sport's Man Inn	- Not approved
Athabasca	Athabasca Inn	- 75 rooms. Approved
Boyle	Boyle Hotel	- Not approved
Vimy	Vimy Hotel	- Not approved
Clyde	Clyde Hotel	- Not approved
Smith	Smith Hotel	- Not approved
Slave Lake	Rustic Lodge and Slave River Motel	- Not approved
Swan Hills	Municipal Campground	- See "Recreation Resources"
Slave Lake	Lion's Campground	- 25 sites, located by golf course
Falher	Falher Campground	- 12 unserviced sites
McLennan	Kimiwan Lake	- Municipal campground
Donnelly	Donnelly Hotel	- Not approved
Faust	Lakeside Hotel	- Not approved
Faust	Campground	- Open area, unserviced sites
Morinville	Tennemen Trailer Court	- 55 sites, located on Sandy Lake

Note: Some local hotels have permanent residents occupying rooms.

APPENDIX C

MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT ZONE
LICENSED GUIDES

MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT ZONE
LICENSED GUIDES

1981/82 Class "A" Guides

Denis Cardinal	General Delivery, Desmarais, Alberta
Cecil M. Cross	Box 124, Fort Assiniboine, Alberta
Ray W. Cross	Box 100, Fort Assiniboine, Alberta
Marie Louise Eben-Ebeneau	Box 172, Slave Lake, Alberta
James Erricson	Box 21, Kinuso, Alberta
Larry S. Hanna	Box 72, Torrington, Alberta
Marvin Hunt	Box 30, Kinuso, Alberta
John Killeen	Box 155, Kinuso, Alberta
Emil Kuffa	Box 1229, Athabasca Alberta
Eleanor Norris	Box 321, Slave Lake, Alberta
Lloyd Norris	Box 321, Slave Lake, Alberta
Leo Peredery	Box 953, Athabasca, Alberta
Kenneth Sloan	Box 133, Kinuso, Alberta
Bert Taron	General Delivery, Desmarais, Alberta
Edward Uchytil	Athabasca, Alberta
Gerald Uchytil	Box 972, Athabasca, Alberta
Joseph Uchytil	Calling Lake, Alberta
Andrew Walters	Box 34, Faust, Alberta

1981/82 Class "B" Guides

Eric Alook	General Delivery, Wabasca, Alberta
John A. Jr. Alook	Wabasca, Alberta
Thomas Auger	Sandy Lake, Alberta
Emile Badger	Box 23, Joussard, Alberta
Randall Badger	Box 23, Joussard, Alberta
G. Baxandall	Box 1257, Athabasca, Alberta
Francis Beaver	Sandy Lake, Alberta
Henry Beaver	Desmarais, Alberta
Joe Beaver	Box 535, Athabasca, Alberta
Michael Beaver	Desmarais, Alberta
Emile Campiou	Box 191, Kinuso, Alberta
Eugene Cardinal	General Delivery, Desmarais, Alberta
Joe G. Cardinal	Calling Lake, Alberta
William Cardinal	Calling Lake, Alberta
Richard Caudron	Joussard, Alberta
Sephir Caudron	Box 62, Joussard, Alberta
Richard Cerny	Sandy Lake, Alberta
Dwight Chernish	Box 899, Athabasca, Alberta
Murray Chorezempa	Box 1631, Athabasca, Alberta
Henry Christensen	Box 966, Athabasca, Alberta
Fred Chrunyk	Box 933, Athabasca, Alberta
Hugo Coli	Box 25, Athabasca, Alberta
Bill Collins	130 Mission Avenue, St. Albert, Alberta
Donald Cooper	Box 762, Slave Lake, Alberta

Edward Courtorielle	Box 1357, Slave Lake, Alberta
Kim Courtorielle	Box 300, Slave Lake, Alberta
Allen Crawford	Calling Lake, Alberta
Cambell Crawford	Box 184, High Prairie, Alberta
George E. Crawford	Calling Lake, Alberta
Lloyd Crawford	Calling Lake, Alberta
Ralph Crawford	Box 81, Fort Assiniboine, Alberta
Greg L. Cross	Box 100, Fort Assiniboine, Alberta
Robert V. Diesel	Box 1024, Swan Hills, Alberta
Dave Donahue	Grouard, Alberta
David Donald	Box 1143, Athabasca, Alberta
Robert Doyle	Box 411, Falher, Alberta
Tim Evans	Athabasca, Alberta
Claude Fries	R.R.#1, Morinville, Alberta
Gus Gabert	9 Ross Drive, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta
Real Gagnon	Box 24, Joussard, Alberta
Daniel Gambler	Calling Lake, Alberta
Gautier	Box 38, Joussard, Alberta
Ned Gladue	Box 906, Slave Lake, Alberta
Henry Goulet	General Delivery, Grouard, Alberta
Roger Guay	Box 215, Falher, Alberta
Peter D. Hansen	Box 693, Swan Hills, Alberta
Roger Harps	Box 1214, Athabasca, Alberta
Jack Hornsby	R.R.#2, Barrhead, Alberta
John Horstemeir	Chipewyan Lakes, c/o Athabasca, Alberta

Leonard Houle	Desmarais, Alberta
Albert Huber	Sunset House, Alberta
Dennis Jackson	Box 104, Kinuso, Alberta
Joe Jackson	Box 1255, Slave Lake, Alberta
Fred James	Box 630, Slave Lake, Alberta
Constance Johnson	Athabasca, Alberta
Ralph Johnson	Box 1772, Athabasca, Alberta
Albert Kuffa	Box 1229, Athabasca, Alberta
Frank Kunz	12 Seymour Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta
Bill Leschuk	Athabasca, Alberta
Irwin Lovlie	General Delivery, Sunset House, Alberta
James O. MacFarlane	Calling Lake, Alberta
Andy Clair Milot	General Delivery, Slave Lake, Alberta
Pat Molloy	General Delivery, Fawcett, Alberta
Roger Moore	Red Earth Creek, Alberta
Marcel Morin	Box 53, Falher, Alberta
Stan Morton	Box 733, Slave Lake, Alberta
Theodore A. Morton	Box 254, Slave Lake, Alberta
Kenneth Nanemahoo	Desmarais, Alberta
Gary Naumann	General Delivery, Athabasca, Alberta
Clinton Nichols	Grouard, Alberta
Murray Onstine	Box 183, Kinuso, Alberta
E. Pedersen	Box 1736, Athabasca, Alberta
Robert Peredery	Athabasca, Alberta
Eugene Philphal	Box 45, Falher, Alberta

Arnold H. Pritzl	Box 144, Athabasca, Alberta
Weldon D. Prosser	Box 1864, Slave Lake, Alberta
Allan Purdy	Athabasca, Alberta
Alfred Quinal	Box 57, Slave Lake, Alberta
William Quintal	General Delivery, Faust, Alberta
Bryan V. Radke	R.R.#1, Barrhead, Alberta
Wayne Rempel	Box 162, Smith, Alberta
Howard Robertson	Box 569, Slave Lake, Alberta
Nick Rubik	Box 1073, Athabasca, Alberta
Harold Schafer	Box 608, Slave Lake, Alberta
Max Schaupmeyer	Box 642, Swan Hills, Alberta
Larry Schlichenmayer	Box 449, Onoway, Alberta
Will Sebesta	Box 69, Westlock, Alberta
Steve Shwaga	Box 1680, Athabasca, Alberta
Gordon Sifton	Box 184, Falher, Alberta
John E. Sinclair	Box 897, Slave Lake, Alberta
Walter Sinclair	Box 2066, Slave Lake, Alberta
Pierre Sliger	Box 660, Falher, Alberta
Ricard Sloan	Box 307, Kinuso, Alberta
Donal Stauffer	Fort Assiniboine, Alberta
Jeremy Stewart	Desmarais, Alberta
Johnny G. Stewart	Sandy Lake, Alberta
William Stoney	Box 144, Slave Lake, Alberta
John Sunderman	Box 103, Slave Lake, Alberta
Sidney Sunderman	Box 97, Slave Lake, Alberta

Wayne Taron	General Delivery, Desmarais, Alberta
Gordon Edward Twin	Box 27, Joussard, Alberta
Kevin Ward	Box 91, Falher, Alberta
A. Weymouth	Box 1043, Athabasca, Alberta
Donald D. White	R.R.#2, Barrhead, Alberta
Steven White	R.R.#2, Barrhead, Alberta
Terry White	Box 1142, Barrhead, Alberta
Arthur T. Wildman	General Delivery, Westlock, Alberta
Gregory Wilger	Athabasca, Alberta
Doreen Williams	Box 120, Fort Assiniboine, Alberta
Kevin N. Williams	Box 120, Fort Assiniboine, Alberta
Lawrence Williams	Box 120, Fort Assiniboine, Alberta
Albert Willier	Box 9, Joussard, Alberta
Henry Willier	Box 1, Joussard, Alberta
Joseph Willier	Box 92, Enilda, Alberta
Clifford Willis	Box 628, Slave Lake, Alberta
Rodney Winder	Box 25, Athabasca, Alberta
Glen York	13 Spruce Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta
Peter Zachoda	Athabasca, Alberta
Grace Zelman	Athabasca, Alberta
Bill Zielinski	30 Glenwood Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta

APPENDIX D

AIRSTRIPS

AIRSTRIPS

Northern Lakes Subregion

Occasional Maintenance

Chipewyan Lakes
95-4-W5 (north of Peerless Lake)
90-3-W5 (west of God's Lake)
Trout Lake
Teepee Lake
Red Earth
Jct. Hwy. 67 and SR 750
76-1-W5 (northeast of Lesser Slave Lake)

Regular Maintenance

Desmarais
74-24-W4 (just northwest of Orloff Lake)

Helipads

Muskwa Lake
86-20-W4 48 km (30 miles) northeast of North Wabasca Lake

Slave Lake Subregion

Occasional Maintenance

High Prairie
McLennan
Falher

Regular Maintenance

Town of Slave Lake

Edmonton Plains Subregion

Occasional Maintenance

Calling Lake

Regular Maintenance

East of Westlock

Helipads

Fort Assiniboine

Swan Hills Subregion	Occasional Maintenance
	Saulteaux River
	Regular Maintenance
	Swan Hills
	Helipads
	Swan Hills

APPENDIX E

INTERVIEW LIST
AND
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF INTERVIEWS
AND
INTERVIEW GUIDELINE

The three sections contained in this appendix are:

- List of Interviewees contacted by Hickling-Johnston Limited during Phase I of the study.
- A general analysis of the interview results which points out the most common opinions expressed in the region.
- The Interview Guideline used by Hickling-Johnston Limited for conducting the interviews.

INTERVIEW LIST

Date		Location	Interviewee	Title
Jul	7	Bon Accord	Glenda Bobbie	Town Council and MTTA Director
	8	Gibbons	Jock Archer	Town Council and MTTA Director
			Maisie Metrunic	Town Administration Manager
			Earl Yeo	Resident -- Long-time
			Eleanor Zimmerman	Recreation Board Chairman
	15	Bon Accord	Linda Davies	Town Manager
		Legal	Mrs. Montpetit	Municipal Secretary
			Rollie Demers	Town Council and MTTA Director
	20	St. Albert	Peter Martin	Manager, Economic Development
	22	Morinville	Angie Gibeault	Town Manager
			Larry Kirkpatrick	Sturgeon Regional Recreation Department, M.D. of Sturgeon
		Alberta Wilderness Park	Bill Cochran	Owner/Partner
	23	Namao Forces Base	Captain S. Cote	Public Relations Officer
	29	St. Albert	Ray Gibbon	V-P, Chamber of Commerce
	30	Westlock	Henry Romanchuk	3rd Vice President, MTTA
Aug	4	St. Albert	Myrna Fyfe	MLA, St. Albert
	11	Ft. Assiniboine	Evie Kuz	Owner, SportsMan Inn
			Pearl Hoover	Museum/Senior Drop-In Centre
			Howard Helm	Owner, Fort Motor Inn
			Chris Reddington	Service Station
			Ed Strawson	Owner, Strawson General Store
		Swan Hills	Margaret Hanson	Mayor
			Joe Kondics	Councillor
			Harold Junck	Councillor
			Lynn Stocking	Town Manager
	12	Barrhead	Allen Charles	County Manager, Barrhead
		Athabasca	Dorothy Patry	Town Council
			Hal Harrison	2nd Vice President, MTTA
			Don Borowicz	Past MTTA Director
	13	Falher	Devonna West	Recreation Department Director, M.D. of Smokey River
			Bev Parker	Recreation Department Director, M.D. of Smokey River
			Gerard Nicolet	Town Administrator
			Gertrude Nairon	MTTA Director
		High Prairie	Bryce Walt	Town Manager
			Jeff Craig	High Prairie Regional Economic Development Board

Date	Location	Interviewee	Title
17	Swan Hills	Carole Logan	Chamber of Commerce
		Nel Durstling	Outdoor Recreation Club
		Terry Goerz	V-P, Chamber of Commerce
		Judy Selin	Swan Hills Ski Club
		Ken & Ann Nagel	Smowmobile Club
19	Boyle	Mr. D.C. Baillie	Municipal Administrator
	Slave Lake	Bea Lineton	Vice President, MTTA
		Ron Lineton	MTTA Director
		Ed Procyshyn	Assistant Secretary Treasurer
25	Clyde	Ms. L.C. McCollugh	Town Manager
27	M.D. of Westlock	William Primeau	Reeve
		Jack Elliot	M.D. Administrator
		Annette Driesen	Program Director, Westlock Recreation Board
	Barrhead	Rose Schuman	Chamber of Commerce Rep., MTTA Director
		Adolf Babblitz	Chamber of Commerce President
Sep 2	Boyle	Dr. Michael Smith	MTTA Director
	Calling Lake		
15	Fawcett Lake Resort	Mary Willetts	Co-Manager
	Slave Lake	Dave Kryskow	Store Owner, Town Councillor, Golden Pike Society Member
	Kinuso	Jack Killeen	Hunting Guide, MTTA Director
16	McLennan	Roger Swetnam	Smoky River Regional Economic Development Board
		George Stephenson	MTTA Director, Town Councillor
	Donnelly	Denis Maisonneuve	Town Manager
17	Faust	Bill Bannister	MTTA Director
Oct 1	Slave Lake	Dennis Barton	Golden Pike Society President

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF INTERVIEWS

QUESTION: What are your opinions regarding your Zone's needs for tourism?

What services, facilities, etc. are necessary to meet these needs?

Location	Zone Response	Local Response
Legal	- Boost advertisement	- Advertise Legal artery to Wildlife Park - Support Wildlife Park operating costs
MD of Sturgeon		- No natural bodies that can be developed
Morinville	- Brochures good - More promotion	
St. Albert	- Zone needs a focus to redirect people into it	
St. Albert	- More advertisement and promotion - Communities must make sure they're represented	
Bon Accord	- Business must accept their responsibility	- Town is community oriented - Tourist booth is well utilized
Gibbons	- "Stamp Around Alberta" was very successful	- Need more attractions
Wilderness Park	- Proper transportation (good paving) - More and better highway signs - Co-operative government depts.	- Same
Barrhead	- Awareness of attractions	- Tourist booth at #18 and #33
Fort Assinniboine		- Open Sand Hills Wilderness Park and develop Goose Lake
Westlock	- Larger effort from business - Better facilities	- No more campsites needed
Athabasca	- Upgrade winter facilities - Further development of camping - Use heritage as tourism attraction	- Downhill skiing - Trail North developments - New rodeo grounds, paddleboat and rafting

Location	Zone Response	Local Response
Boyle	- Money for promotion - Some facilities are inefficient (need competition) - More tourist and summer recreation operations (riding, sailing, flying)	
Fawcett Lake Resort		- More advertisement
Donnelly	- Good facilities	
Faust	- Continued development of what the Zone has	
High Prairie		- Expand the facilities along the south shore of Lesser Slave Lake
McLennan	- Improve highway signing - Promote culture and history	
Falher	- Need cultural events - More recreation activities especially winter - Better accommodations	- Racquetball courts - Performing art facilities - Hiking/cross-country ski trails - Game preserve
Kinuso	- Accurate information on tourist marketing - Better attitude to foreign money - Regional adjustments to regulations	
Slave Lake		- Campground in immediate area - Campground - Boat launch and rentals - Marina
Slave Lake Businessman		- Boat launch - Marina
Golden Pike Society	- More promotion	- Boat launch - Marina - Paved beach road
Swan Hills	- Hunting enforcement - Winter camping facilities - Develop Klondike Trail - Better highway signs	- Pave #33 north and #325 - Vehicle of communication between clubs and government

QUESTION: What is the feeling of the local people towards Tourism?

What is the feeling of the local people towards further Tourism development?

Location	Response
Legal	- At the town and business level, tourism is supported.
MD of Sturgeon	- The MD is only concerned with meeting the needs of its residents.
Morinville	- No local opinion has been expressed. The town wants more tourism but the facilities are designed for the residents.
St. Albert	- The only group concerned are the businesses located on the highway. In general, there is a lack of exposure to tourism and its potential. There is potential for more development. - Tourism has very little significance for the average person. There is no problem to further development.
Bon Accord	- A slow growth plan is preferred. - People want to leave a good impression -- clean pleasant town. Any further development would be small scale.
Gibbons	- Local residents want the recreation amenities of Edmonton. Businesses want the tourism.
Wilderness Park	- There is positive support from the area.
Barrhead	- The county's rural population is not responsible for tourism. - People have mixed feelings but no definite opinion.
Fort Assiniboine	- There are mixed opinions about development. Positive opinions are proportional to amount of knowledge.
Westlock	- There is a problem with communication. People are not aware of groups promoting tourism. - The rural community is not associated with tourism. Tourism expansion in the town would spin-off positively on the MD.
Athabasca	- There is no problem with the tourist flow and expansion is welcome.
Boyle	- Local feelings are split by a generation gap. The elderly believe there is too much growth while the younger generation want an increased growth rate.

Location	Response
Clyde	- Most residents don't want tourism, and the "community spirit" must be developed first.
Donnelly	- The people are interested, as the town is continually kept clean. More tourism would be better for the economy.
Faust	- Residents' feelings are very good, and the community league plays an active role.
High Prairie	- People are interested. More "top of the line" facilities are required for development.
McLennan	- Most people would be happy with further development.
Falher	- There are positive feelings towards tourism - Tourism is supported and more growth is welcome.
Kinuso	- Potential for more development is in this county.
Slave Lake	- People are aware of tourism and would like more of it. The Golden Pike Society has been a catalyst. - Most people do not think too much about tourism, but would like further development. - Residents are positive towards tourism.
Swan Hills	- Retail businesses are positive towards tourism, but the other local groups have not been approached. - Most complaints are about lack of access into the area. Local businesses do encourage more development.

QUESTION: What role (if any) should the government play in Tourism Development in this area?

Location	Zone Response	Local Response
Legal	- More involved but unsure in what ways	- #651 hardtopped - Better signs
MD of Sturgeon	- Continue MCR grants and consultants services	
Morinville		- Grants are needed for renovating historic sites
St. Albert	- Channel provincial resources better - Better funding -- upgrade parks and keep some campsites open during the winter (no winter access points)	- Only see province when called for (there is no continual communication)
Bon Accord	- Reallocate funds from the "haves" to the "have nots" - Financial assistance versus extra taxation	- Was only involved during 75th birthday (self supporting)
Gibbons	- Only involvement has been MCR grants - Highway signing - More support (consultants) especially for major projects	
Wilderness Park	- Ensure Travel Alberta, etc is a helping hand versus bureaucratic body - Develop roads and provide signs	- Better funding of park -- more support for attractions which promotes the province
Barrhead	- Good but room for expansion -- more campgrounds and upgrade present facilities	- Government well represented (decentralized)
Fort Assiniboine	- Encourage and support private enterprise - Assist in advertising	

Location	Zone Response	Local Response
Westlock	- Promotion of Zone tourism - Farm-style holiday	- 4 season development in Tawatinaw Valley - Maintain Long Island Lake Beach
Athabasca	- Private enterprise is encouraged but loosen up overall grant structure for better access and wider interest	
Boyle	- Treat tourism the way it is advertised (3rd largest industry) - Tourism project budget is low (especially compared to municipal projects) - Fish hatchery is wanted	
Fawcett Lake Resort		- This is a private operation and the government does not have a special role
Donnelly	- More funding and involvement	
Faust	- Spend more on local tourism (promotions) developments -- small towns can only go so far in helping themselves	
High Prairie	- The region wants more exposure and a higher profile - Inject funds to develop tourism products -- Hilliard's Bay project - Have a co-ordinator role for direction and assistance	- More accommodations
McLennan	- Zone financing and assisting the tourism industry - More zone publicity	
Falher	- Financial assistance/support (the MD hasn't tried hard for it though) - Increased funding - facility development consultation - Continued publicity	

Location	Zone Response	Local Response
Kinuso	- Better inter-governmental department communications to allow for accurate information transferred to the public	
Slave Lake	- Continued recreation assistance (the MCR grant program) - Straight commercial loans for viable projects rather than the matching grant system	
Swan Hills	- Provide a vehicle for communication between clubs and government for information transfer	- Pave #33 north - Protect the Grizzly - Pave #33 north and #325 - Grants have been and will be utilized

QUESTION: How important is Tourism to the economy in this area?

What other reasons do you have for (en/dis)couraging Tourism development?

Location	Response
Legal	- Friday and Saturday brings traffic to the stores.
MD of Sturgeon	- MD is not tourist oriented.
Morinville	- No local business is dependent, but there is a positive effect from tourism (gas, food, restaurants). - Out-of-province plates are seen in town.
St. Albert	- There is potential for tourism to be important. - Master Recreation Plan has an internal focus (not oriented to tourism). - Tourism is not as important as it could be.
Bon Accord	- The hotel receives tourist traffic (tavern). - Most residents commute. - Tourism isn't important
Gibbons	- The town is firstly oriented to attracting industry, secondly for developing local recreation, and then for tourism.
Wilderness Park	- Total dependence on tourism. - Park has increased the traffic and business in the surrounding communities.
Barrhead	- Tourism is low key (agriculture base). - Not really a tourist town.
Fort Assiniboine	- Tourism is important as the economy is not self supporting.
Westlock	- Westlock is an agricultural centre. - The tourist-oriented services are all on the highway (#18). - Tourism is not important to the MD.
Athabasca	- Agriculture is the major economic base but tourism has the potential to be the second industry if it isn't already.
Boyle	- During the summer, more than half of the local business comes from tourism (tourists and summer cottagers). - Tourism is big business in Boyle.
Clyde	- Tourism isn't important.
Calling Lake	- Tourism is very important to local businessmen.

Location	Response
Calling Lake	- Tourism is very important to local businesses.
Fawcett Lake Resort	- The resort is dependent on tourism.
Donnelly	- Agriculture based economy.
Faust	- Traffic flow has been increasing every year to the federal dock and local campground.
High Prairie	- Economy base is forestry, agriculture and government services. The fourth industry is tourism.
McLennan	- Agriculture based economy. - No local service is dependent on tourism.
Falher	- Tourism isn't important, but recreation is supported. - Tourism is important -- business sales and regional promotion.
Kinuso	- There are 3 guides in Kinuso but no individual is dependent on tourism. - The region's tourists are mostly self sufficient (motor homes, etc.)
Slave Lake	- Tourism is third most important industry. - Mainly grocery stores and gas stations benefit from "bonanza money". - Very few people are dependent on tourism.
Swan Hills	- Important to retail merchants but they are not dependent on tourism. - Services are designed for the community, but they can handle the tourist flow.

OTHER REASONS FOR (OR AGAINST) DEVELOPMENT

Location	Response
MD of Sturgeon	- Improve quality of life in region.
St. Alberta	- Movement of people brings money, but there is no place to put them.
Wilderness Park	- More tourists can put park "in the black" (it is presently run with a deficit budget).
Barrhead	- Tourism can increase the economy through diversification.
Westlock	- The town's beauty should be shared but there are no facilities to keep the travellers here. - More activities would help keep more people occupied (employment).
Athabasca	- Athabasca has a "very rich heritage".
Boyle	- More opportunities will help the town grow.
Donnelly	- It would be better for the economy.
High Prairie	- The region is a "virgin" area people don't know about yet.
Kinuso	- This region has a potential.
Slave Lake	- Could create and maintain employment. - Would take up the slack in the economy.

QUESTION: Comments.

Location	Response
Boyle	- A possible development site -- according to a trapper, Dennis Winkleman, owner of "Nature's Waye", there are some "kettles" NNE of Long Lake Park and in a wildlife preserve, a moose breeding grounds. There are approximately three warm air ducts from the earth. Closest access points are on a winter road.
Athabasca	- Summer season is too short for private enterprises to develop campgrounds.
Westlock	- Regional recreation department offers a variety of programs and courses each season of the year. It is also responsible for ball diamonds, arenas, and curling rink bookings. The Tawatinaw ski area may be a potential location for hiking and cross-country skiing. - Westlock is located favourably for traffic into and out of the northern areas. The local service clubs are active. The Chamber of Commerce should be more active. An effort should be made to attract mini-conventions.
Fort Assiniboine	- Various additional ideas were mentioned -- Klondike Trail could be developed more; Trail riders couldn't ask for better country; Stock lakes or develop lakes for swimming; Clear Lake and Goose Lake; River boat tours; Cross-country skiing; Indoor hockey and recreation centre. Apparently, U of A owns a large amount of land just east of the town from the river bank up the hill. Although Fort Assiniboine has the potential for increased tourist flows, the people appear to have a lethargic nature.
Slave Lake	- The tourist zones wanted to advertise in Edmonton during the 1978 Commonwealth Games, but the city would not provide a "tourist alley" for displays. Northern Alberta has no fish hatchery. A variety of small ones located near the major lakes would be better than one large one. To promote tourism, something must be provided for people to do. Private enterprise would step in if there was a dollar to be made.
Kinuso	- Interviewee has approximately $50,000 invested in guiding and outfitting supplies. Horses for guiding must be quiet (more expensive). Guiding can accommodate 10 people maximum (canvas tents and cots). Local bears are wild; they don't know what people are and wander into camps. Interviewee's reason for the economic slump is because American money was chased out of Canada.

Location	Response
MD of Smoky River	- The MD includes three indoor arenas (Donnelly, Falher, McLennan), three curling rinks (Girouxville, Falher, McLennan). Falher has recreation/fitness trail. Population of MD is 5,951, approximately 75% are bilingual. Interviewees are relatively new to the region.
Falher	- Funding is important for developing facilities. Donnelly hosts the regional fair. Annual raftrace at Blueridge. Population is 1,204 with 90% being bilingual (approximate).
Donnelly	- If a major facility was to be put into the area, the region may not be able to support funding or operating it.
McLennan	- Ideas mentioned -- using the railroad with touring cars, dude ranch holidays, cultural meals and dances on a regular basis, three day weekend north country history tours -- "Magical Mystery". Tourist flow has increased in the past three years. Highway #49 was paved in 1979. They are forever digging up bones by the Smoky River (especially near Eaglestone which is in Zone 8).
High Prairie	- The area is capable of handling people and the interviewees would like to see it promoted for small conferences or conventions as well.
Swan Hills	- Town is presently at a standstill. Better access roads would improve their condition. Swan Hills is geographic "hub of Alberta". No developed trails for nordic skiing unless skiers make their own. Downhill ski hill has no summer activities (not 4 season event). There is a lot of good fishing. Ideas with potential --winter carnival, a new circle tour if #33 is paved, Krause Lake development, cross-country skiing. Problem areas -- co-ordination of activities between Slave Lake and Whitecourt forest divisions when Swan Hills region is involved. There is an erosion problem, especially land slippage when the land is cleared because of the high levels of clay in the soil layers.
Legal	- Chemical plants in Redwater -- hardtop #651. Development of Manawan Lake should be looked into -- campground, sailing, canoeing. Many residents commute to St. Albert and Edmonton.
Wilderness Park	- Interviewee is having difficulty directing people to the Wilderness Park. Some travellers end up at Polar Park.
Bon Accord	- Town has own water and sewer systems, hence budget for its maintenance (expensive leaks). When slough is developed, will become picnic/campground location. Community has a high volunteer rate. Of the surrounding centres, Bon Accord has best maintained sports facilities. This has attracted various tournaments to Bon Accord. Most of the newer residents are young families.

Location	Response
MD of Sturgeon	- MD of Sturgeon includes Legal, Morinville, Bon Accord, Gibbons and Redwater. Cardiff Park used to be a coal pit but with time it has been filled by rain water. It will now provide picnic area, parking lot, open playing fields, limited swimming and/or fishing.
Barrhead	- The Alberta Correspondence School will add 300 to 500 extra people to the population. The present population is approximately 3,800. The last census was 3,500. The land used for the present golf course (9 holes with sand greens) is leased to Barrhead from the government. It is flood control land for the Paddle River. It will likely be converted to park area containing a fitness trail, and par 3 mini golf course.
St. Albert	- More participation in developing tourism by general public. Emphasized throughout the interview was the idea of towns making sure they are represented. Thus, they should be more responsible for their own advertising. An inventory should be taken so people know what northern Alberta has to offer. The uniqueness and first class quality of the cultural centre was emphasized. The city is looking into having a company (theatre, ballet, dance) based there. Culture has equal status with recreation. The Department of Economic Development has an internal focus. They are providing for the residents of St. Albert first before tourists. A difficulty was expressed similar to the "chicken and egg" dilemma -- wait for the market growth before providing for their needs or position the future requirements now in anticipation of growing demands.
Clyde	- Village population is 364 people, the majority are retired. The village is a member of the Westlock Regional Recreation Board.
Boyle	- More people have been moving into the town. There are good services (i.e. Marshall Wells, Co-Op, etc.).

APPENDIX F

LIST OF CONTACTS

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Alberta Recreation and Parks

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Greg Fernet

Alberta Environment

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APPENDIX G

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2. Person-Trips by Alberta Residents within Alberta by Purpose and by Quarter -- 1980.
3. Person-Trips by Alberta Residents within Canada by Purpose and by Quarter -- 1979.
4. Person-Trips by Alberta Residents within Canada by Purpose and by Quarter -- 1980.
5. Person-Trips by Canadian Residents to Alberta by Purpose and by Quarter -- 1979.
6. Person-Trips by Canadian Residents to Alberta by Purpose and by Quarter -- 1980.
7. Person-Trips by Canadian Residents Alberta by Main Mode of Transportation, by Origin, and by Quarter -- 1979.
8. Person-Trips by Canadian Residents to Alberta by Main Mode of Transportation, by Origin, and by Quarter -- 1980.
9. Average Length of Stay -- Canadian Residents Travelling to Alberta by Origin -- 1979.
10. Average Length of Stay -- Canadian Residents Travelling to Alberta by Origin -- 1980.
11. Average length of Stay -- Alberta Residents Travelling in Canada by Destination -- 1979.
12. Average Length of Stay -- Alberta Residents Travelling in Canada by Destination -- 1980.
13. Tourism Expenditures in Alberta by Origin 1st Quarter -- 1979.
14. Tourism Expenditures in Alberta by Origin 2nd Quarter -- 1979.
15. Tourism Expenditures in Alberta by Origin 3rd Quarter -- 1979.
16. Tourism Expenditures in Alberta by Origin 4th Quarter -- 1979.
17. Tourism Expenditures in Alberta by Origin 1st Quarter -- 1980.
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APPENDIX H

MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT ZONE
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

MIDNIGHT TWILIGHT ZONE
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Commercial Fishing Catch in Kilograms
(1982)

Lake	Species								
	Whitefish	Trout	Walleye	Perch	Pike	Tullibee	Ling	Suckers	Total
Peerless	40,433	1,184			3,194		1,014		45,835
Vandersteen	241		45		271				557
Graham	4,101		2,448		2,068	6	881	36	9,540
Jackfish			190		1,320	533			2,043
Long	1,009		52		267				1,328
Equisetum	2,847		135		296	1,034	16	45	4,373
Good Fish	1,149		11			31	31		1,222
North Wabasca	22,597		2,249		1,896	921	160	282	28,105
South Wabasca	477		3,449	1,496	7,246	1,910	1,023	2,046	17,647
Sandy	244		62		106	856	77	60	1,405
Sander	312			136	134		764		1,346
McLeod	10			924	1,112		27		2,073
Calling	29		84		242		810	26	1,191
Fawcett	5,556		900		597	16,707		74	23,834
Orloff	5,240		281		723	4,471	410	40	11,165
Rock Island	2,202		1,218		934	10,263	83	1,167	15,867
Utikuma	136,456		10		106,747	2,543	10,800	1,359	257,915
Nipisi	3,610				4,670		183		8,463
Mink				639	2,677	1,234			4,550
Brintnell	1,658				87	2,654	43		4,442
Cranberry				37	3,493	563			4,093
Lesser Slave	195,249		31,034	134	66,202	22,648	113,494	210,149	638,910
Total	423,420	1,184	42,168	3,366	204,282	66,374	129,816	215,284	1,085,904

APPENDIX I

LISTING OF
TOWNS, HAMLETS AND VILLAGES
IN ZONE 14

LISTING OF TOWNS, HAMLETS AND VILLAGES IN ZONE 14

Population -- 25,000 - 50,000	Type Of Community
. St. Albert	City

Population -- 2,500 - 5,000	Type Of Community
. Slave Lake	Town
. Westlock	Town
. Barrhead	Town
. Morinville	Town

Population -- 1,000 - 2,500	Type Of Community
. Falher	Town
. McLennan	Town
. High Prairie	Town
. Swan Hills	Town
. Athabasca	Town
. Legal	Village
. Bon Accord	Town
. Gibbons	Town
. Gift Lake	Metis Settlement
. Girouxville	Village
. Donnelly	Village
. Joussard	Hamlet
. Faust	Hamlet
. Kinuso	Village
. Smith	Hamlet
. Boyle	Village
. Clyde	Village

Population -- Under 250	Type Of Community
. Chipewyan Lake	Settlement/Locality
. Peerless Lake	Hamlet
. Loon Lake	Settlement/Hamlet
. Red Earth Creek	Settlement
. Trout Lake	Hamlet
. Jean Cote	Hamlet
. Atikameg	Hamlet
. Wabasca	Hamlet
. Desmarais	Hamlet
. Sandy Lake	Settlement/Hamlet
. Pelican Portage	Locality
. Kathleen	Hamlet
. Guy	Hamlet
. Grouard	Hamlet
. Enilda	Hamlet
. Driftpile	Locality
. Canyon Creek	Hamlet
. Widewater	Hamlet
. Fawcett Lake	Summer Village
. Calling Lake	Hamlet
. Hondo	Locality
. Sunset House	Locality
. Chisholm	Hamlet
. Island Lake	Summer Village
. Big Coulee	Locality
. Grassland	Hamlet
. Sunset Beach	Summer Village
. Donatville	Locality
. Flatbush	Hamlet

Colinton	Hamlet
Mewatha Beach	Summer Village
Meanook	Locality
Fawcett	Hamlet
Ellscott	Hamlet
Jarvie	Hamlet
Perryvale	Locality
Vega	Locality
Rochester	Hamlet
Fort Assiniboine	Village
Neerlandia	Hamlet
Dapp	Hamlet
Lone Pine	Locality
Shoal Creek	Locality
Tawatinaw	Hamlet
Camp Creek	Locality
Pibroch	Hamlet
Nestow	Locality
Bloomsbury	Locality
Tiger Lily	Locality
Freedom	Locality
Rossington	Locality
Manola	Locality
Pickardville	Hamlet
Vimy	Hamlet
Waugh	Locality
Highridge	Locality
Meadowview	Locality
Busby	Hamlet
Lac La Nonne	Locality
Alcomdale	Locality
Mearns	Locality
Coronado	Locality

. Sandy Beach	Summer Village
. Riviere Qui Barre	Hamlet
. Calahoo	Hamlet
. Namao	Locality
. Villeneuve	Hamlet

Source: Alberta Municipal Affairs
Northern Alberta Development Council

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL